Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Reportedly Seeks Egypt's Mediation With U.S.

JN1001170090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Libya has asked Egypt to intervene to convince U.S. President George Bush to unfreeze Libyan assets in U.S. banks and to establish trade and economic relations between Washington and Tripoli. Diplomatic circles in Cairo confirm that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a letter last week to President Husni Mubarak that was delivered by Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, who arrived in Cairo last Wednesday [3 January]. The message deals with the U.S. Administration's insistence on maintaining its boycott against Libya.

Diplomatic circles said that President Mubarak promised Col al-Qadhdhafi to discuss the issue with U.S. officials during the meeting that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will hold with U.S. President George Bush on the sidelines of the expected tripartite meeting among the Egyptian, Israeli, and U.S. foreign ministers. AL-WAFD has learned that preparations are underway for the Libyan leader to visit Cairo within the next 2 weeks, during which Libyan participation in financing projects in Sinai will be discussed. AL-WAFD has also learned that Libya asked Egypt to discuss joint cooperation in the field of military industries.

Arab Maghreb Union Session Opens in Tunis

LD1001134190 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1120 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Tunis, 10 Jan (TAP)—The proceedings of the fifth ordinary session of the Arab Maghreb Union Followup Committee and General Secretariat began at Sidi Darif Hotel in a Tunis suburb, yesterday. [passage omitted]

In his speech Driss Alaoui Mdaghri, secretary of state for Arab Maghreb Union affairs in the Kingdom of Morocco, said that after examining ways to organize the specialized ministerial committees, the members of the followup committee have agreed to form four committees which will become the motivating force for joint action that needs to be undertaken in the various sectors. The committee also drew up the procedures which the brothers in the Arab Maghreb will have to follow in light of the principles and bases already defined. The committee also discussed the union's relations with the Arab, African, and European groupings and agreed that an objective analysis should be made of these relations.

The Moroccan secretary of state then said that the followup committee did what was expected of it under the terms of the Marrakesh Treaty and in accordance with the guidelines of the current president of the union, King Hassan II. He pointed out that the work of the committee represents one part of the union's work which is carried out by the other structures and apparatuses. He added that the committee will also assess the results achieved so far and will analyze any difficulties that may arise in order to give our action the necessary effectiveness.

Afterwards Moroccan Secretary of State Driss Alaoui passed the chairmanship of the session to Mohamed Amamou, Tunisian secretary of state for Arab Maghreb Union affairs. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Confers With Al-Qadhdhafi by Telephone

LD1001143990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] A telephone conversation took place this afternoon between [Tunisian] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. It dealt with cooperation between the two sister countries and a number of issues of common interest, in addition to the preparations for the holding of the first session of the chairmanship council of the Arab Maghreb Union in Tunis.

Maghreb Summit Rescheduled for 21-23 Jan

LD1101015690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The Presidency has issued the following statement:

His Excellency the President of the Republic Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had last night [10 January] telephone conversations with His Majesty King Hassan II, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Chadli Bendjedid, and Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. In deference to the wishes of some leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and following Maghreb leaders' unanimous agreement, it has been decided that the first meeting of the union presidential council will be held on 21, 22, and 23 January.

TAP has also learned that the meetings of experts preparing for the first meeting of the AMU presidential council as well as the meeting of the AMU's general secretaries and foreign ministers will be continuing in Tunis until 13 January as scheduled.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Mideast Developments

JN1001200090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1801 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] At a news conference in Lebanon yesterday, Mr Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], discussed the current political situation in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. The following are the

highlights of the news conference on the current fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Ahmad Jibril said: Some circles have said that we are participating with Hizballah in the fighting against the Amal Movement. This is completely groundless. We have the moral courage to admit it if we were participating in this fighting. Therefore, we explicitly state that we are against this fighting, as we announced on the first day of the fighting in a public statement. We want the Amal Movement and Hizballah to stop fighting and save the blood that is being shed to confront the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon.

On the Palestinian deployment to the east of Sidon, the PFLP-GC secretary general said: No one can be duped in this matter. 'Arafat was welcomed in Iqlim al-Tuffah because he announced that he had suspended fighting against the Zionist enity. He added: I defy those who brought 'Arafat to Iqlim al-Tuffah to bring in all the other Palestinian factions that believe in armed struggle. If some fear us in our capacity as PFLP-GC, let them bring in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front as they brought in the 'Arafat forces.

At his news conference the PFLP-GC secretary general referred to the shelling against the front's bases—even though they are more than 20 km away from the contact lines—while they [not further identified] agree to the deployment of 'Arafat's forces.

Ahmad Jibril said he supports the Syrian-Iranian initiative, which seeks to stop the shedding of blood between the comrades in arms in the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He said: We wish success to the Iranian initiative, which is represented in the arrival of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati and in Syria's support through its Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; the initiative seeks to stop what is taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

On PFLP-GC-Iranian relations, Jibril said: Our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran precede the Pan Am airliner incident by a long period of time. He said: We have supported the Islamic Revolution in Iran because of its clear position on the Palestinian-Zionist conflict. What do you expect our stance to be toward a country that takes such a political stand? We seek allies who believe in the continuation of our struggle, and we believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran is sincere in this.

On Syrian-Egyptian relations Ahmad Jibril said: Politically, we can understand this step in view of the current political complexities. There is a convergence in Syrian and Egyptian policies, but they are not identical. We do not believe that Egypt has dragged Syria into Camp David. Nor do we believe that Syria has pulled Egypt out of Camp David. Each has its own position. However, there is a convergence between them.

On the visit by a PLO delegation to Syria, the PFLP-GC secretary general said: Syria does not object to a PLO delegation coming to Damascus. However, 'Arafat refuses to send a delegation, because he would be forced to give clear-cut answers on his policies toward the Arab-Zionist conflict, and 'Arafat does not want to face up to this.

On his expectations for the Arab-Zionist conflict this year, Mr Ahmad Jibril said at his news conference in Lebanon yesterday: I say to those who are deluded by the U.S.-Zionist plan: Why must the Zionist entity make concessions to the Arabs, for what reasons? Politics does not imply an ethical stance. In politics, there are interests and I do not think that the Arab nation currently possesses sufficient weight to compel the Zionist enemy to make concessions in the West Bank, Gaza, and in the Golan. The USSR and the Socialist Bloc were the last international factor that could affect the conflict. Now you see the [Socialist] Bloc states competing to establish relations with the Zionist entity. Now, you notice that there is no longer any mention of the international conference. Hence, why should the Zionist enemy make concessions? They plan to bring in some 800,000 Jewish immigrants from the USSR and settle them in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the next 5 or 10 years. On the other hand, they plan to deport Palestinians to the east of the Jordan River. The Americans and the Zionist enemy are saying to the world: Let the Palestinians take Amman and establish their Palestinian state to the east of the Jordan River. Consequently, we tell the pro-U.S. Arabs not to continue deluding the masses of our Arab nation into believing that it is possible to obtain concessions from the United States or the Zionist entity. The only option open to the Arab nation—if it wants to protect what is left of its honor—is to reconsider the past methods and forms of struggle, from 1979 to the present, and to begin reorganizing its affairs for launching a popular confrontation with the Zionist enemy on the basis of popular war, rather than on the basis of tanks and aircraft, which we can only acquire on specific terms. I do not believe that there is any technology that can halt the people's war.

Mr Jibril said that there is a conspiracy to subjugate Lebanon. He added: We are not against a Lebanese solution to end the state of fragmentation and internecine fighting, but such a solution should not take place at the expense of continuing the revolution and the conflict against the Zionist enemy. We seek to open other fronts to combat the enemy.

The secretary general ended his news conference by describing Mr Khalid al-Fahum's initiative for national unity as a personal initiative and that he is not ready to talk with 'Arafat and those around him. He said: We explained the PFLP-GC's position on this initiative, explicitly and frankly, at the recent meeting of the Palestine National Salvation Front on Monday, 8 January 1990.

PLO's Hurani on Al-Fahum Statement, Syria Links

JN1101094890 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
9 Jan 90 p 25

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Barqawi] How does the Palestinian leadership assess the call that was made at this particular time by former Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker Khalid al-Fahum to reunify all the Palestinian factions?

[Hurani] Neither the PLO nor the Palestinian people feel that their national unity is incomplete. The daily following up of intifadah developments, relations between the Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories], and the rallying around the PLO demonstrate the true significance of this unity, which creates interaction between the people and their leadership.

We still do not know the true reason behind al-Fahum's call. If the reason was that the Palestinian groups living in Damascus want to rejoin the PLO, then no one imposed an embargo on them. The PNC's 18th and 19th sessions invited these groups to participate in the meetings, but the invitation was turned down. The PLO did not expel these groups from its frameworks and institutions, but they themselves did this. We should point out that these groups' major concern is to attack the PLO and its leadership, and even the intifadah. This has isolated them from the PLO and the Palestinian people.

Rejoining the PLO needs no prearrangements, invitations, or meetings. Any good Palestinian citizen will always find the doors open to him, but not to those who tamper with the PLO. Why this call at this particular time? We hope that it will not be the start of attempts to cast doubts on national unity, because this would bring back Arab interference in the PLO's internal affairs. Also, this would not be a call for bolstering unity, but an attempt to tamper with unity itself.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe that al-Fahum's call is linked to developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations, whether these developments have been positive or negative?

[Hurani] I believe that my previous answers were clear, and that I have answered this question.

[Al-Barqawi] Throughout the past years, relations between the PLO and Damascus experienced ups and downs, and sometimes they were close to normalization. What are the reasons?

[Hurani] The PLO has always expressed its readiness to normalize its relations with Syria. During the PLO Executive Committee meeting that preceded the Euro-Arab dialogue, brother Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, and the delegation accompanying him were entrusted with discussing the resumption of talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on normalizing relations with Syria. However, the Qaddumi-al-Shar' meeting has not resulted in an agreement on the Palestinian delegation's visit to Damascus. I would like to stress here that the PLO will keep the issue of normalizing relations on the agenda, and that it will be ready to implement it when the Syrian brothers respond to the PLO, especially since the PLO's political action in Arab and international spheres is based on an integrated national program that was approved by the PNC's extraordinary session, and on a consolidated national unity on the inside and outside.

Consequently, the PLO is not afraid of holding talks with any Arab side. On the basis of the national program, the PLO is ready to promote relations with any Arab state, including Syria.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe that the Syrian position is a result of recent developments in the Arab region?

[Hurani] On the one hand, I do not want to analyze the reasons behind the Syrian position on behalf of my Syrian brothers, and on the other hand, I do not want to say anything that would affect the PLO's positive approach to the normalization of relations with Syria. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Endorse Plan To Expel Palestinians

JN1001193290 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
9 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Cairo, AL-BAYAN—A Palestinian source has told AL-BAYAN that the PLO has a report on a plan endorsed by the U.S. Administration calling for the expulsion of ½ million Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip within 2 years.

The report states that the expulsion plan is ready and adds that there is nothing now to prevent Israel from taking measures to implement this plan in order to quash the intifadah and settle Jews, given that Soviet Jewish immigrants are knocking at Israel's doors after U.S. doors were closed to them.

The source did not rule out the use of force to expel the Palestinian people from their land. Furthermore, he called upon the intifadah masses, the Arab states, and the entire world to counter this plan.

Khalaf Questions U.S., Israeli Desire for Peace

JN1001212290 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
9 Jan 90 p 29

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, has renewed the PLO's adherence to its right to represent the Palestinian people and accused the United States and Israel of attempting to abrogate this role. He said that the intifadah will continue and that there are many stages ahead. Salah Khalaf welcomed the return of the Syrian-based Palestinian factions to the PLO, provided they

have abandoned their plans to destroy the PLO. In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA' in Tunis, Abu-Iyad said that no party can deprive the PLO of its representation of the Palestinian people, expressing his conviction that the exclusion of the PLO would confirm the absence of all national rights and satisfaction with the self-rule stipulated by the Camp David accords more than 10 years ago.

Abu-Iyad stressed that the PLO's position is not a tactic or a maneuver. The PLO's presence is not a subject for bargaining, he said. Abu-Iyad noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's fabrication of the so-called Weizman crisis r was a message to the U.S. Administration on Israel's very clear position of rejecting any real PLO presence.

On the popular intifadah in the occupied territory, Abu-Iyad noted there are phases ahead that will reach the phase of civil disobedience. However, he added, the appropriate circumstances must exist for this phase. He said it was very difficult for 120,000 workers to quit work in Israel if financial support was not available for them. Khalaf added that the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory have made many sacrifices, noting the torrent of blood that has not stopped since the outbreak of the intifadah.

On the question of a settlement in the Middle East, Abu-Iyad stated that Israel has no desire for peace. He said: In addition to this, Israel constitutes a factor of instability not only in the Arab region, but also in the Mediterranean area, particularly since any step toward peace will deprive Israel of e its reason for existence with regard to the United States.

Expressing the PLO's concern to pursue its peace initiative, Salah Khalaf reaffirmed that the PLO does not regret the initiative it declared at the end of 1988. However, he called for other methods to support the intifadah so that Israel will be forced to respond to the peace initiatives.

With regard to what has been said on visits to Tunisia by Palestinian personalities from the territories occupied in 1948 and their meetings with Palestinian leaders, Abu-Iyad noted that these contacts are not mediation efforts but are aimed at reaching an understanding on the Baker plan. He stressed that the PLO has stuck to its viewpoint announced by the Central Council on 15 October of last year.

Turning to Palestinian-Syrian relations, the Palestinian leader said that restoration of Syrian-Egyptian relations will be a helpful factor. However, he pointed out that the delay in a meeting between officials from both sides might be necessary before achieving positive results. He expressed his conviction that the changes in the world call for further rapprochement among all Arab states to face the future.

Abu-Iyad spoke about the ministerial crisis that ended with the removal of Weizman from the Israeli Inner Cabinet. He said that this is a sign of Shamir's isolation; this crisis exposes Shamir's hostile intentions against peace. The Palestinian leader said that, in light of this crisis and its results, it seems that the path of peace still eludes the Israeli prime minister. He expressed his conviction that the decision taken by Shamir constitutes a message addressed not only to members of his government, but also to the U.S. Administration—to make it understand that there is no role for the PLO.

Salah Khalaf added that the United States is sti!! supporting and maintaining the Israeli coalition government, although it knows that this coalition cannot make difficult decisions. He expressed his belief that Washington does not want Israel to adopt a true position because America itself is not ready to achieve a solution to the Middle East crisis.

Salah Khalaf described the recent changes in Eastern European countries as the result of the free will of these countries' peoples. He said that Israel is working to exploit these changes in its own interest through Jewish elements in these countries by showing the difference between the Arabs and these countries. He reaffirmed the PLO's support for the people of the East European countries and their will of expression, even if this leads to temporary losses. He said that relations with these countries will return to normal in the end.

In response to the call made a few days ago by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front, to achieve national unity among the various factions of the Palestinian revolution, Salah Khalaf noted that national unity has been demonstrated since the 18th Palestine National Council session in Algiers. However, he welcomed the return of the Damascus-based organizations provided these factions abandon the plans through which they tried to destroy the PLO.

Envoy to Riyadh Dismisses Egypt-Israel Contacts

PM1101110390 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 4 Jan 90 p 2

[Fahim 'Ali al-Hamid and Faysal Ba-Tawil report: "Baker Formula Far From Clear: Al-Natshah"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah—There is nothing called Palestinian-American-Egyptian and Israeli Negotiations. There are only contacts being made by Egypt. As is understood from the statements of Egyptian officials, no positive results have, so far, emerged from these contacts. This produces the evidence that the United States is insistently ignoring the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. This was stated by Rafiq al-Natshah, the Palestinian ambasssador to the Kingdom.

Speaking to SAUDI GAZETTE following the celebration held at the Industrial Institute here this evening on the 25th anniversary of the start of Palestinian uprising. Al-Natshah said: "We can say without any reservations that the current contacts being made by Fgypt did not result in any positive points."

He added: "Up to this moment, the points presented by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are still without clarification" adding that these points are a distorted interpretation of Shamir's proposals. [passage omitted] Asked by the GAZETTE whether he sees an alternative to the peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Al-Natshah said that the armed struggle is the basis and that the peaceful endeavours are supplementary to it. "However, if we found that the attaining of our right would be possible through the political struggle then we would go ahead with it, otherwise, we would be obliged to return to our original approach 'the armed struggle.'"

About the emigration of the Soviet Jews to Israel, Al-Natshah said: "Every Jew should stay in the nation he belongs to. Like-wise, the Soviet Jews should stay in their nation." [passage omitted]

Palestinian, Israeli Dec 89 Casualties Tallied

JN0901194090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpts] The following is the outcome of the Israeli suppressive and terroristic measures during December 1989: Twenty-eight citizens were martyred—20 of them by bullets; 2,321 citizens were injured, while 933 others were arrested—194 on administrative detention. [passage omitted]

Despite the noticeable escalation in the policy of terrorism, the masses of our people and the strike forces have managed to injure 72 soldiers and 23 settlers.

The Israeli acts of suppression and terrorism were manifested this month by suppressing the peace march in which thousands of Palestinians, Israelis, and Europeans from various parts of world took part, in order to erect a human fortress around the walls of Jerusalem and to declare 1990 a year of peace in the region. However, this peaceful march met with acts of suppression and terrorism such as firing at the participants of the march. This caused the injury of 80 participants of different nationalities; some of them are in critical condition. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Islamic Front Chairman Holds News Conference

LD0901001590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 90

[News conference held by Abassi Madani, chairman and spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front, with unidentified correspondents following a meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers on 8 January—recorded]

[Text] As we mentioned in the headlines of this bulletin, and in the framework of the contacts between the president of the Republic and the representatives of the political parties about their main concerns related to the development of the democratic march, President Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic, today received Mr Abassi Madani, chairman and spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front.

After leaving the office of the president of the Republic, Mr Abassi Madani answered questions of journalists of the national press, among whom was our special correspondent, Amar Bakhouche.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] We have learned that this meeting took place at your request. Could you begin by telling us the reasons for this?

[Madani] We are at the stage of dialogue, and the best way to conduct dialogue is through a direct meeting. So to lessen the burden of information for you, the journalistic community, and we thank you for the efforts you are making in the information sector, I believe that this meeting came as a result of your efforts and those of the whole Algerian people.

[Correspondent] Have there been any results of this meeting, Mr Abassi Madani?

[Madani] Undoubtedly.

[Correspondent] What are the results, if you don't mind?

[Second correspondent, interrupting] Many people in the civil society have talked lately about the phenomenon of violence and intolerance. We would like to find out from you whether or not this phenomenon of violence is a real thing and exists.

[Madani] This phenomenon of violence is French colonialist misinformation, and we regret that our information is heading in the same direction.

[Correspondent] Political speeches in the national arena exist, however, and some kinds of speech call for violence.

[Madani] Never, this is not right. Go back to the texts.

[Correspondent] What texts?

[Madani] The texts of our statements, the texts of our Islamic Salvation Front. If you go back to these texts, you will find that the speech is clear and the language frank. However, you have become accustomed to hypocrisy and have considered the language of honesty as violence.

[Correspondent] Many people in civil society also say there is a difference between what is written and what is reality.

[Madani] Never. Can you give us proof that we have had a history of violence?

[Correspondent] Mr Abassi Madani, another question, if you do not mind. On many national and international occasions you were invited to the 1 November celebrations and to the National Liberation Front [FLN] Congress.

[Madani] We are not under an obligation to attend.

[Correspondent] Why?

[Madani] We are free.

[Correspondent] Are you not part of society?

[Madani] We behave according to the requirements of our policy.

[Correspondent] It is said that mosques are monopolized by the Islamic Salvation Front.

[Madani] Mosques are for all God's servants who come to them. Have the mosques ever been closed to anybody?

[Correspondent] As far as the other political parties...

[Madani, interrupting] Let them come, if they please. They call for something else. They choose bars to meet their friends in and we have chosen the mosques. We are free to choose as they are also free to do so. We did not prevent them from meeting their friends in bars, so how can they force us to leave the mosque?.

[Correspondent] But you are a political party.

[Madani] An Islamic political party.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that it uses the mosques as its headquarters?

[Madani] Yes. It was used as such by the prophet, peace be upon him, before today. Our mosques are not churches.

[Correspondent] Is it possible for you, the Islamic Salvation Front, to have a political alliance, even if it is only a temporary one, with one of the parties?

[Madani] Yes, if the country were faced with a given situation and if that were in compliance with the country's interests.

[Correspondent] Mr Madani, the country is witnessing an acute economic crisis. The civil and political society is now an example of the multiparty system, and it has led us to talk only about violence. What is the solution? [words indistinct]

[Madani] This is the orientation of those who program information. This is raising false problems so that we do not face fundamental issues, such as the economy.

[Correspondent] How can the economic issue be handled?

[Madani] The fundamental economic issue has as its starting point, first of all, the rehabilitation of the people. Let us give them back the word, and if they are given back the word, they will prepare and set forth and you will see how they will set forth, God willing, as a giant for the building of civilization and to carry the torch of the mission.

[Correspondent] However, this should be in accordance with economic rules.

[Madani] The economic and social factors are areas which are subject to laws of the universe which we study—and we have the keys to control them.

[Correspondent] According to your view, does democracy exist in the Algerian arena, especially after the Constitution was adopted by the people last February?

[Madani] No, we endeavor to raise democracy even higher to the freedom of Islam in its largest, most honest and complete sense.

[Correspondent] Mr Madani, does the Salvation Front consider itself part of the civil society?

[Madani] Why not? As part of Algerian society, not general civil society. It is the front of the Algerian Muslim people.

[Correspondent] By civil society, I mean political plurality and peaceful coexistence.

[Madani] My brother, how can we not coexist with each other and how can we not complement each other and why do we not help each other when God says: Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancor and in disobeying the prophet. [Koranic verse]

[Correspondent] Does the Islamic Salvation Front allow the mosque to be turned into a rostrum for political squabbles between the parties?

[Madani] Please, let me tell you that this does not exist and anyone who wants to discuss this let him come. He has the right to do that.

[Correspondent] Do you allow this? This is the question.

[Madani] Dear sir, we cannot violate anything which is allowed by the canonical law of Islam.

[Correspondent] Will you allow the Socialist Vanguard Party to hold a dialogue with you?

[Madani] Let them all come. The people are the people of mosques. The Algerian people are aware.

[Correspondent] This, however, is considered harmful to the sanctity of the mosque.

[Madani] Never. The sanctity of the mosque means that you do not violate it with your intelligence network, your police, and that you do not impose restrictions on God's places of worship. God Almighty said: And who is more unjust than he who forbids that God's name should be celebrated in places for the worship of God, whose zeal is to ruin them? [Koranic verse]

[Correspondent] The mosques belong to God.

[Madani] The mosques belong to God and nobody has the right to monopolize them. Did you say this to the FLN [National Liberation Front] when it monopolized them?.

[Correspondent] They had the offices of administrative departments at the provincial level [mouhafadates], Harcha Hall.

[Madani] Please let me tell you, the imam was forced to deliver the two speeches which were written by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Their topic was the agricultural revolution. We only say that the pulpit should not be monopolized. The prophet's pulpit is free. The Algerian people will not be free until the prophet's pulpit is free.

[Correspondent] The pulpit, however, is for worshipping God and not to declaim the programs of the parties.

[Madani] Sir, our politics is our worship and our worship is politics.

[Correspondent] Mr Madani, there is a saying that Algeria is the first Islamic country to permit the existence of a political party which has a religious character, an Islamic one. Somebody said that this is considered a political innovation.

[Madani] As far as the colonialist logic is concerned this is something new. The Algerian people moved forward in October before others did. The Algerian people were a giant in the vanguard of people—and why shouldn't they be?

[Correspondent] What is your assessment of the meeting with his excellency the president?

[Madani] It is a first step on the way to dialogue and we would like you to follow in its steps.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Madani] Peace be upon you.

[Correspondent] Peace be upon you. [end recording]

Egypt

'Arafat Speaks at Labor Federation Ceremony

NC1001064990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—The Egyptian Labor Federation held a ceremony this evening to mark the 25th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

The ceremony was attended by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and several other Palestinian figures. It was also attended by 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haqq, minister of manpower and training; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs; Ambassador Sami Haybah, assistant foreign minister; a number of party leaders and representatives; Dr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah, chairman of the People's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Labor Federation; and Egyptian and Palestinian trade union leaders.

'Abd-al-Rahman Khadr, secretary general of the Egyptian Labor Federation, announced the recommendations adopted at the seminar on the Palestinian dialogue, which began its meetings at the Arab League Headquarters yesterday.

The seminar recommended that the Palestinian issue be included in the curricula at trade union schools and institutions and that a number of scholarships be allocated to Palestinian trade unionists and workers in Egypt.

The seminar denounced Israel's settlement policy and called on public opinion to exert pressure on the Israeli Government to respond to peace calls.

The seminar decided to send a cable of support to President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Labor Federation, then spoke. He reaffirmed the Egyptian workers' support for the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of Palestinian leader 'Arafat. He said that the seminar is being held to formulate a clear program for supporting and realizing the demands of the Palestinian intifadah and to ensure its continued steadfastness.

Al-'Amawi emphasized that Israel is continuing to refuse the olive branch and to adhere to its stand with regard to the occupation of land and the frustration of every attempt to achieve peace.

Al-'Amawi called for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. He concluded by saying that the Palestinian people's intifadah needs more material and political support from all so that it may continue and have a greater effect. He noted that the Arab performance in this respect is still below the required level. He said that the labor unions and organizations are called upon to adopted a unified stand in words and deeds to support the intifadah. He pointed out that the Egyptian Labor Federation will host an international labor conference in Cairo in support of the Palestinian workers and people.

Al-'Amawi presented the Palestinian leader with the shield of the Egyptian Labor Federation as Palestinian national songs were sung.

Assistant Foreign Minister Sami Haybah then spoke on behalf of 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He stated that by their revolution, the Palestinian people seek to build and not to demolish and destroy. They want to live in peace, which is their right and their destiny.

He affirmed that the Palestinian intifadah, sparked by the youths of the stones in the occupied Arab territories, is a natural extension of the Palestinian revolution and a renewal of the revolution's process because the Palestinian people at home and abroad refuse to accept the continuation of the status quo. The meaning of their message must be remembered.

Ambassador Haybah asserted that Egypt, out of its sense of responsibility toward the Palestinian issue and its conviction that the Palestinian revolution is part of the Arab will, has extended every support to the Palestinian revolution.

He said that Egypt, in coordination with the PLO, is exerting every effort to activate the peace process so that the Palestinian people can regain their legitimate national rights.

He pointed out that on this occasion, Egypt calls on all the forces of peace in Israel and the world to exert efforts to achieve a peaceful solution and a settlement of the Palestinian issue in a way that will achieve justice for the Palestinian people in accordance with international law.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat then spoke. He said: We are meeting in (?Cairo) for the second consecutive year and this is significant. He added: We renew our pledge to the Egyptian workers that the Palestinian people's blessed revolution and intifadah will continue until victory.

He said: We are today celebrating the second anniversary of the intifadah as well as the first anniversary of the establishment of the Palestinian state. This is not mere coincidence, for these two events are landmarks on the path of (?unity) and the road to victory.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat lauded the Egyptian position on the Palestinian issue under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak. 'Arafat said that the sincere stands adopted by Egypt, President Husni Mubarak, and Egyptian (?parties), groups, and workers are of great significance and substance.

'Arafat added that Egypt has never failed to make sacrifices for the sake of the Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause.

He pointed out that Egypt offered 86 martyrs and other casualties on Palestinian soil. The Palestinian leader then expressed gratitude to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people and parties for all the principled stands Egypt has adopted in support of the Palestinian people and cause.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1101062090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo early this morning following a visit to Egypt during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

President 'Arafat attended the closing session of the Egyptian-Palestinian seminar organized by the Egyptian and Palestinian labor federations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

'Arafat also attended the Palestinian cultural and arts festival which began in Cairo on Wednesday, 10 January.

Iraqi Legislator, Mubarak Discusses Gulf Issue

NC1001133890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received an Iraqi National Assembly delegation led by Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih. Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, People's Assembly speaker; Dr Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the People's Assembly Committee on Arab Affairs; and Nabil Najm, Iraqi ambassador to Cairo, attended the meeting.

In a statement, Salih said he had conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Husni Mubarak, who asked Salih to convey his regards to President Saddam. Salih also noted the strength of Egyptian-Iraqi relations.

Answering a question on the recent initiative by President Saddam Husayn to resolve the Iraq-Iran conflict, for which Egypt has declared its support, Salih said that this initiative is practical, objective, and has gained Arab and international support, but its success depends on the Iranian response. He noted that Iran has so far neither relaxed its intransigent position nor accepted the initiative.

Asked if he expects Iran's rejection of the initiative to lead to renewed fighting, Salih said he did not think so, for both sides had learned their lessons from the war. The Iranian side in particular well knows that the resumption of war would wreak total havoc in Iran. I do not think the war will be resumed. The whole world opposes any resumption of the war, Salih said.

Responding to a question on the current situation and whether it reflects a misunderstanding of UN Security Council Resolution 598, Salih said the current situation is the result of Iran's refusal to hold direct negotiations on the basis of Resolution 598.

Salih was asked why Iraq-Iran negotiations cannot be held under an international umbrella in the manner that is being envisioned for the Palestinian issue. He responded by saying that Iraq calls for direct negotiations under UN sponsorship and on the basis of Resolution 598. This is the Iraqi position and it has not changed, he said.

For his part, Dr al-Mahjub said that President Mubarak discussed bilateral relations, Iraq-Iran exchanges, and developments concerning the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] with the Iraqi delegation. Al-Mahjub said that the meeting was a good opportunity to exchange opinions with our Iraqi brothers.

Dr al-Zayyat voiced the hope that a parliamentary committee representing the ACC countries would be formed so as to add a popular dimension to cooperation among the ACC governments.

Departs Cairo 11 Jan

NC1101100290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Sa'd Mahdi Salih, Iraqi National Assembly speaker, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit to Egypt.

While in Cairo, the Iraqi speaker met with President Husni Mubarak and held talks with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub on bolstering parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

Dr al-Mahjub saw the guest off at Cairo airport.

Inshas Nuclear Reactor Resumes Operation

NC1001085390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0726 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Egyptian nuclear scientists have successfully renovated the Inshas nuclear reactor which had been inoperative for 10 years. The Inshas reactor, Egypt's first nuclear reactor, was built and began operations in the early sixties.

In today's edition, AL-AHRAM notes that Egyptian nuclear scientists, in cooperation with scientists at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna, have succeeded in upgrading the Inshas nuclear reactor so that it will serve not only research purposes, but also

have industrial applications and produce important isotopes used in medical treatment, particularly iodine-131 which is used in radiation treatment and the treatment of tumors.

Dr Hamid Rushdi, head of the Atomic Energy Authority [AEA], said that the renovations at the Inshas reactor include the control of radioactive monitoring, measuring, and alarm instruments. The improvements will enhance safety. The reactor, he said, has actually begun operating in a safe and reassuring manner.

Dr Rushdi said that the reactor will be able to function for at least the next 10 years, by which time the new experimental reactor, which is currently under construction and whose capacity is 10 times greater, will be completed. Egypt, he said, not only has the ability to operate nuclear research reactors and produce radioactive substances, but can also construct, operate, and carry out maintenance on projects involving the production of nuclear energy.

Dr Muhammad Sultan, head of the Inshas nuclear research center, said that Egyptian atomic scientists exerted great efforts to renovate the reactor. These scientists replaced the Soviet-made control and safety systems with Western ones. This task, he noted, was accomplished by Egyptian hands and expertise exclusively, without the reliance on Western expertise which would have been extremely costly.

Dr Sultan said that the operation of the reactor means Egypt will be able to stop importing radioactive material needed for medical purposes and will become self-sufficient in this area.

AEA Professor Dr 'Abd-al-Raziq Husayn said that the improvements to the nuclear reactor will for the first time enable Egypt to carry out precise photographic examination of the containers, the substances used in the construction of nuclear reactors, and the nuclear fuel being used.

Meanwhile, IAEA expert Dr (Victor Wimts), said that Egypt has sufficient expertise to build nuclear reactors and make technological improvements. Many Egyptian scientists have distinguished themselves in this area while working abroad and Egypt has the necessary expertise to enter the field of building and operating nuclear power plants.

Sudan

Official on Readiness To Renew Talks With SPLA

EA1001125990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—Deputy Chairman al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih has expressed Sudan's readiness to hold a new round of talks with the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army].

"The new round of talks depends on the outcome of the previous talks held in Addis Ababa and Nairobi" he said.

Salih told the daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" that negotiations with the rebels created an atmosphere of confidence between the two sides.

Census Completed; Results Expected Within 2 Months

EA1001123390 Khartoum SUNA in English 1008 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—The census of population started in the national capital Khartoum yesterday was completed the same day in an atmosphere of full commitment of inhabitants to staying at their homes, said rapporteur of the census commitee Muhammad Ahmad al-Bashir.

He added that about 21,000 counting-men conducted the counting in collaboration with the security authorities.

He said the data gathered through the census will be subjected to thorough computer analysis, adding that the results of the census and the analysis will be announced within two months.

Al-Bashir pointed out that the census will be utilized in laying down the future plans for providing the capital's inhabitants with basic commodities and services.

'Positive' Response Observed

EA1001204290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—The enumeration of the residents of the national capital was completed yesterday on a basis of 100 percent. All the information was obtained at around (?1900). This was stated by Mr Muhammad Ahmad al-Bashir, the rapporteur of the National Capital enumerative committee. He said he used 350 vehicles in the enumeration operation, and about 21,000 persons had participated. He pointed out that the preliminary results will appear in the middle of the next week.

Meanwhile, Brigadier Uthman Muhammad Sa'id, commissioner of the national capital, delivered a speech on the occasion of the completion of the enumeration praising the enthusiasm of the capital's citizens. He said this positive response increases our confidence that we shall be able to of bring to realization our great dream of establishing a civilized capital in a strong and noble Sudan.

[Paris AFP in English at 1721 GMT on 10 January, in an item datelined Khartoum, Jan 10, reports that "Sudanese authorities Wednesday dismissed as 'ill-intentioned' speculation that a census carried out in Khartoum on Tuesday could have served as a cover for a policing operation. The census had been aimed at 'establishing a more precise estimate of the needs of the

people of the capital, with the aim of organizing basic public services,' an official quoted by the SUNA news agency said."]

Al-Bashir Sees Departing Zairian Ambassador

EA0801220190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] At the General Command this morning Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, received Mr Kanyanga Fwadi, Zairian Ambassador to Khartoum, on the occasion of the end of his tour in Sudan. Lt Gen 'Umar awarded the ambassador the First Order of the Two Niles in appreciation of his efforts [word indistinct] in developing relations between the two countries.

After the meeting, the ambassador praised the friendly and brotherly relations between Sudan and Zaire. He pointed out that the two countries' relations are developing continually in the interest of the two peoples. The reception was attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul.

Kuwait

PDRY Defense Minister Comments on Army Merger

LD1001141690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1249 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 10 (KUNA)—A plan to merge the Armed Forces of North and South Yemen has got under way in part of a re-unification program agreed between Sanaa and Aden, South Yemeni defense minister said here Wednesday.

He said the first part of the army reunification plan had already been executed, with the armed forces of the two sides withdrawn from the joint borders back to their original positions.

The visiting Yemeni minister added that a study is being prepared on a common military law for the two Yemens and pointed out that a complete merger of the two armies would take place by the end of the year.

Brig. 'Ubayd and his Kuwaiti counterpart and host Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad Wednesday morning attended the graduation ceremony of cadet officers. He made the remarks to reporters after the event.

'Ubayd on Tuesday held a round of talks with Shaykh Nawwaf on military matters of common interest to both countries.

Departs Kuwait 10 Jan

LD1001202690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1741 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 10 (KUNA)—Defence Minister of the People's Democratic Republic [of Yemen] Brigadier Salih 'Ubayd Wednesday hailed the outcome of his visit here and described it as good.

In a departure statement to KUNA this evening, 'Ubayd said his talks with Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad, the defence minister, have touched on ways to boost military cooperation between both countries.

'Ubayd and the accompanying delegation arrived here Monday on a three-day visit during which he delivered a message from Yemeni President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas to H.H. [his highness] the amir.

'Ubayd was seen off at the airport by Shaykh Nawaf, Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Jabir al-Sabah and ambassadors of both countries.

PDRY

Joint Committee on Political Reform Convenes

EA0801221390 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT Jan 90

[Text] At the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee building this evening the Committee of Unified Political Reform started the first session of its second meeting. Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP deputy secretary general, and Dr Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] deputy prime minister, foreign minister and member of the Permanent Committee, chaired the meeting.

The committee dealt with results of its first meeting in Ta'izz [YAR] and the search for alternative political work in the unified state. It dealt with choosing an appropriate alternative to ensure development of democratic practices, and with preparing the national and peoples' practices in the administration of the state's affairs. [as heard]

The Committee of Unified Political Reform is scheduled to deal with results of the recent summit in Sanaa between brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the People's General Congress, and with issues to which they referred. The committee tomorrow will continue its sessions.

Yemen Arab Republic

YAR, PDRY Ministers Return From Ethiopia

JN0901181890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Muhammad al-Qasim al-Wajih, telecommunications minister and Standing Committee member in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, Central Committee member, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, returned to Sanaa today after conveying a joint message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the general People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam dealing with steps taken to reunify the Yemeni homeland.

In a statement to SABA', the two ministers said the Ethiopian officials, led by the Ethiopian president, have blessed the unionist steps and shown complete understanding of issues pertaining to Yemeni-Ethiopian cooperation.

Foreign Ministry on Soviet Mediation Proposal

JN1101111690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 11 Jan 90

[excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—The Foreign Ministry today welcomed here the proposed meeting between Iraq and Iran in the Soviet Union and stressed that for any meeting to achieve its desired goals, it must be comprehensive, and not confined to discussing partial details.

Commenting on a TASS report on conducting a meeting among the foreign ministers of Iraq, Iran, and the Soviet Union on Soviet territory, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Soviet Union had proposed such a meeting last year, and Iraq in August informed the Soviet Union it accepted the idea, while the Iranian position on the proposal continued to be vague and hesitant—part of the Iranian policy characterized by elusiveness and avoiding direct talks.

The spokesman said Iraq welcomes any direct meeting between the two sides to achieve common understanding of the provisions of Resolution No 598 contained in the 8 August 1988 agreement, according to which the ceasefire was effected.

Proceeding from this position, Iraq welcomes the proposed meeting in the Soviet Union if it falls within this framework, especially since the Soviet Union is a friendly and impartial country concerned with attaining peace.

The spokesman stressed if the meeting is conducted it will not be a substitute for the initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn on 5 January, because conducting meetings in Baghdad and Tehran under the auspices of the UN General Secretariat, as proposed by President Saddam Husayn, not only will achieve a direct meeting between representatives of the two countries, but also will provide an opportunity for these representatives and for both countries' leaderships to conduct contacts and dialogue at all levels. It also will create new circumstances for the peoples and officials of both countries that help bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace.

The other elements of the Iraqi initiative are basic ones in the advance toward peace. These concern the release of all sick and wounded prisoners of war and those who long have been in captivity—namely, those captured in 1980, 1981, and 1982—registering all those who are not, as stipulated by the Third Geneva convention; and the arranging visits by citizens of both countries to holy places and religious centers in Iran and Iraq.

The spokesman said: We hope Iranian acceptance of the proposed meeting in the Soviet Union will not be an attempt by Iran to evade the powerful impact of President Saddam Husayn's initiative, to stall for time, and to return to its old position.

East European Military Delegations Depart

JN1001183290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—The CSSR delegation led by General Vladimir Smejkal, chief of armament and technical support staff at the CSSR Ministry of National Defense [title as received], this morning left Baghdad.

In a statement to INA, Gen Smejkal paid tribute to the initiative announced by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn in his historic speech marking the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Iraqi Army and described this initiative as a serious step toward peace between Iraq and Iran.

The Bulgarian delegation, led by General Nikolov Tsotsov, Bulgarian deputy minister of national defense, also has left Baghdad. He made a statement saying the initiative announced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on Army Day is nothing new, considering Iraq has continued to call for the establishment of peace with Iran.

The Hungarian delegation, headed by Jozsef Kalman, Hungarian deputy chief of staff, also has left Baghdad.

In a predeparture statement, Kalman said the peace initiative announced by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is a humanitarian one designed to establish peace between Iraq and Iran.

The delegations, which attended celebrations marking the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army, were seen off by the assistants to the chief of staff and the CSSR, Bulgarian, and Hungarian ambassadors in Baghdad.

UN Ambassador Comments on Peace Initiative

JN1101150290 Baghdad INA in English 1257 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, Jan 11, INA—Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations has announced that the new Iraqi peace initiative has been received with significant international stances.

In a press conference held here today, Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari clarified that positive reactions to the Iraqi overture had come from the U.N. secretary general, Soviet Union, and Britain in addition to many Arab countries.

He added that Iraq hoped that the Iranian Government would respond eventually to the Iraqi peace initiative to render permanent and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Iraqi ambassador elaborated the initiative, announced by President Saddam Husayn on Jan 5, saying it had come as a result of an overall evaluation of the situation after a 16-month-long ceasefire with Iran.

Al-Anbari pointed out that Iran had so far failed to reach such a decision and carried on its manoeuvres to achieve just a pull-out without adherence to comprehensive and lasting peace.

Iraq's permanent delegate to the U.N. pointed to the second para of the new initiative, saying that Iran was still using the prisoners of Iraq-Iran war (POWs) affair for political ends and ambitions, as it linked their release with the withdrawal of forces, which meant that Iran had decided to hold the Iraqi POWs as political hostages in disagreement with the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

He clarified that Para 118 of the Geneva Convention stipulates that POWs should be repatriated automatically after the cessation of hostile military operations.

The Iraqi ambassador recalled that the International Committee of the Red Cross chairman had announced that his organization considered hostile actions were suspended between Iraq and Iran, and thus, the POWs should have been freed at least a year ago.

He said that Iraq was always prepared to attend direct meetings with Iran under the auspices of the U.N. secretary general to resume negotiations.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz the Iraqi foreign minister has accepted a proposal, forwarded by the U.N. chief in this regard, but the Iranian side rejected it during Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's latest visit to the U.N. last month, Mr. al-Anbari pointed out.

The Iraqi official made it clear that despite its recent announcement over releasing a number of wounded and sick POWs, Iran had to date not freed them, though it informed U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson during his recent tour for Baghdad and Tehran of its decision. However, Tehran is still delaying the release of that number.

Saddam Urges Officials To Start New Year 'Clean'

JN1001092790 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has declared: Every passing year is full of many things concerning life, the present, and the future. As far as we Ba'thists are concerned, the important thing is to use our time to serve the people. Addressing a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on 30 December 1989, his excellency added: If a person does not take stock of his position to know where he went wrong, he never will be able to rectify his mistakes. Self-appraisal should be the objective of all those serving the people, so nothing important is overlooked.

His excellency said: The most important thing to point out as we congratulate ourselves and our comrades on the new year is every one of us must take stock of his position, because we are determined not to lose any of our people or comrades unless we must.

The leader president asserted: The most important thing is for all of us to receive the new year with a clean record. When we rectify our mistakes, we receive the new year with a clean record. The clean record I mean is a pure heart, honest explanation, and sincere work.

Weizman Interviewed on Talks With Shevardnadze

TA1001210490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Interview with Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman by Yig'al Rom in Moscow on 10 January; monitored in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Weizman] ...the central issues, where he claimed—and I agreed with him—that time is not working in our favor, that precisely because of today's openness in which the future cannot be predicted—and he cited Romania as an example—if we do not accelerate the process, all sorts of things can happen. We also analyzed the military situation, weapons and such, clearly noting they are not too eager to pursue this game.

[Rom] What about the level of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union?

[Weizman] I emphasized from the start, actually I started out with it, that it is inconceivable the Soviet Union and Israel will not have diplomatic relations. I stressed in particular that although I cannot compare Egypt with the Soviet Union—Egypt still is an enemy country against which we fought for 30 years in wars that claimed the lives of the best of young men on both sides—the current situation is ironic. I asked: How can you accept this? I repeated this to him several times and mentioned to others as well that while the Israeli flag flies in Cairo and the Egyptian flag is hoisted in Tel Aviv, there is no parallel gesture in the Soviet and Israeli capitals. I said, therefore, if you have any thoughts about delving into the process—and I am sure you entertain such thoughts—it is high time you stop moving behind the scenes and say what you have to say, if anything, out front.

[Rom] Did he not say things explicitly?

[Weizman] I do not mean his remarks to me. I mean in diplomacy. I gave him an example. I told him: We have a representative here, of a certain echelon—although I am not too familiar with the levels on the diplomatic plane...

[Rom, interrupting] Indeed, why did he not participate in the meeting?

[Weizman] Do me a favor, leave me alone.

[Rom] I am asking you a question.

[Weizman] So let me answer, let me talk. As an official, I was asked that the only representative to accompany me be a member of the delegation [as heard]. I applied heavy pressure to have Arye [Levin] also come. They set the terms otherwise, however. I had a choice and could have decided not to go, that is true. But I believe that would have been a mistake. But on that occasion, I repeated three times: I think your attitude toward our man here is wrong. You will achieve far more by displaying a different attitude, but he is not here with me.

[Rom] Are you aware your meeting with Shevardnadze already has vexed people in Israel? What do you have to say to this?

[Weizman] Look, first of all I am sorry things annoy people. Let people notice the positive things that have come out of this. After all, I am the first minister to be invited here, and I was not just invited because of my blue eyes. This is an excellent visit, as you can hear from any one of the four professors if you care to ask them about what they already have seen, what kind of attitude they were accorded, with what degree of openness they met. Certainly this is an attempt to appease us.

The prime minister told me: Avoid meetings. Try not to conduct them. This was not an order or an instruction, but was very much like what he did when I was in Washington and the Soviet ambassador invited me. He told me: You will not go, and I said: Fine, I will not go. That was a request you must admit anyone else in my position would not have responded to any differently. As a guest here in this country, when the foreign minister invites you, how can you say no when I received an order not to go? That is why, although I understand the sentiment, I hope this storm also will die out.

Additionally—and this is the main point—Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked me, and also gave me material on those missing in action [MIA's], to try to approach the highest echelon and give them this material, because we cannot leave one stone unturned or any angle untreated. Upon receiving the invitation from Mr Shevardnadze—and I have material from Yitzhaq Rabin on [missing navigator] Ron Arad and our other MIA's from the war in Lebanon—I thought it would be right for me to meet with him, which I did. I left the material with him, and he even said they already had talked with the Syrians, although not yet with the Iranians. He added they [not further identified] understand the matter, will examine it, and keep us informed. I think this is a worthy move, even if it angered some people.

Weizman, Shevardnadze Discusses MIA's, Mideast

TA1001180590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The science and technology minister this evening dispatched to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem a detailed report on his 2-hour meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Our correspondent in Moscow, Meron Tzur, believes upon his return Weizman will provide additional details on his talks to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens—all because of that meeting, in which our representative Arye Levin did not participate.

[Begin Weizman recording] This was an instructive, very interesting meeting that lasted more than 2 hours. The main points were the USSR naturally is interested in a solution, and it regards promoting the process a necessity. It views its involvement in the Middle East important to the Soviet Union and all elements involved. We

definitely mentioned economic relations, and he emphasized he will promote tighter economic relations between the Soviet Union and us through his government bodies. I, of course, thanked him for the exciting scientific tour we had.

One of the important things is a document I gave him, drawn up by the Defense Ministry at the defense minister's request, regarding the MIA's [missing in action]. He promised to deal with the issue. They said to date they had discussed this issue with the Syrians, but now they also will raise it with the Iranians. I believe even if nothing else comes out of my visit, the whole trip will have been a blessing. [end recording]

Levin Absence From Meeting Angers Ministry

TA1001144390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The USSR is interested in soon upgrading the level of its representation in Israel to that of a legation and granting it an official diplomatic status. Israeli representation in Moscow will be upgraded to the same level. This was reported at the conclusion of the meeting between Minister Weizman and USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The meeting lasted more than 2 hours. The two ministers discussed relations between the two countries.

Speaking to our correspondent in Jerusalem, Minister Weizman said he protested to Shevardnadze about his [Shevardnadze's] demand that Arye Levin, head of the Israeli representation in Moscow, not participate in the meeting. He said the Soviet had asked only one delegation staffer accompany him [Weizman] because of problems relating to their own representation, as they put it. Believing there is no reason to play the offended party in such a situation, Minister Weizman decided not to cancel the meeting.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem expressed anger at the fact Minister Weizman conducted the meeting despite the USSR demand Arye Levin not attend. It is shameful and regrettable when a minister accepts a demand not to include Israel's official representative, Jerusalem said.

Arens on Weizman-Shevardnadze Talks, CSSR Ties

TA1001184290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens takes a very grave view of the fact Minister 'Ezer Weizman met with the USSR foreign minister, despite the Soviets' objection to the participation of Arye Levin, the Israeli representative in Moscow, in these meetings. Minister Arens met this evening with members of the CSSR delegation visiting here. After that meeting our correspondent Dan Eshel conducted this interview with him:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] Mr Foreign Minister, Minister 'Ezer Weizman met today with your Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. Israel's representative, Arye Levin, was excluded from that meeting. How do you react to that meeting?

[Arens] The Soviet Foreign Ministry refused to allow the head of our representation in Moscow to participate in the meeting, and Mr Weizman capitulated to that ban. He attended the meeting without our representative. I believe this caused us serious damage. We are fighting for the status of our delegation in Moscow and that of Arye Levin, who heads the delegation. I always have made sure Arye Levin participated in my meetings with Mr Shevardnadze, so Weizman's readiness to go ahead and attend the meeting without him constitutes not only a personal affront—and it is more than an offense—but also something which brought harm to us in our fight for the status of the delegation, a very important struggle to us.

[Eshel] That meeting still is an achievement of sorts—at least, we gathered so from Mr Weizman's comments—in the form of the announcement the Soviet representation in Israel will be upgraded to the level of legation.

[Arens] I discussed it with Mr Shevardnadze when I met him three months ago in New York. This in fact was concluded then, but has not yet been implemented. I hope it will be applied, but I do not believe it is in any way related to the fact the Soviets did not want to include our local representative in the meeting. I do not regard that an achievement. Here, I believe, damage was caused.

[Eshel] Mr Arens, you have just ended a meeting with a CSSR delegation. Is the issue of relations between Czechoslovakia and Israel around the corner?

[Arens] I believe relations with the CSSR and other East European countries are about to be renewed in the near future.

[Eshel] Indeed, Vaclav Havel had announced relations with Israel and the Vatican would be resumed.

[Arens] That is correct.

[Eshel] Have any cornerstones been laid today during your meeting?

[Arens] Well, as you obviously understand, they came here at their own initiative to discuss the accelerated process of establishing relations with us.

[Eshel] They actually disregard the press. How do you view this?

[Arens] Look, I think they are waiting for the day when the resumption of ties officially is announced.

[Eshel] Do you know when that date will be?

[Arens] It is not far.

[Eshel] This year?

[Arens] Yes, I am confident it will take place in 1990. [end recording]

Arens Comments on Elections in Territories

TA0901185990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has made it clear that if a solution cannot be found through the Baker plan, Israel will have another way to hold elections in the territories.

The foreign minister was speaking in Jerusalem this evening at the International Jewish Media Conference.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent David Essing] Tomorrow, the Inner Cabinet discusses Secretary of State Baker's response to the Likud demands for assurances to keep the PLO out of peace negotiations. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens made his position very clear.

[Arens] should it turn out that we cannot, through Mr Baker's five points, arrive at this dialogue that will deal with the procedures for holding elections, then we will find another route to arrive at a consensus on electoral procedures and move on to the elections that we want to hold so that we shall be able to begin negotiations with representatives of the Palestinian Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Essing] Arens said East Jerusalem was not part of Israel's peace initiative, nor could Palestinians from abroad or convicted terrorists serve as delegates. The foreign minister said Israel opposed negotiations with the PLO not only because it was a terrorist organization. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat claimed to be speaking for 6,500,000 Palestinians, including those in the diaspora, and demanded their right of return to Israel. This, Arens said, would spell the destruction of Israel. [end recording]

Arens on Arab Attitudes After Ties Resumed

TA1001195390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The foreign minister says resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria was accompanied by jarring notes indicating Syria has not changed its aggressive attitude toward Israel. The resumption of Egyptian-Libyan relations furthermore also has not altered Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's views. Iraq continues its unbridled attacks. The nature of its regime and the strength of its Army make it imperative Israel show maximum alertness. Minister Arens told the Knesset plenum he hopes Egypt will influence the Arab countries to forsake their hostility toward Israel. The above was reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen.

Forum of Four: No Response to U.S. Reply

TA1001162290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] The meeting of the forum of four this morning lasted more than an hour. It concluded without a resolution. At the meeting the prime minister, vice prime minister, and foreign and defense ministers heard a thorough briefing by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. Rubinstein presented the ministers with the draft of the Israeli reply to the U.S. letter. It was drafted by Yosi Ben-Aharon, Salay Meridor, and Rubinstein. In the document, Israel is asking that several amendments concerning the PLO's participation and the issue of the deportees be introduced to the proposed U.S. assurances.

There were disagreements between Shamir and Arens on one hand, and Peres and Rabin on the other. The Likud ministers maintained the draft should be endorsed as proposed by the team and transferred to the Americans at this time. The Alignment ministers refused and asked to examine the document before it is sent to the United States. The forum of four therefore did not reach a resolution, and no reply was given to the Americans.

At the meeting's conclusion, the Inner Cabinet convened to discuss the same issue. Rubinstein also briefed these ministers, but this time only dealt with the contents of the U.S. letter and its interpretations, and not the draft Israeli reply. [passage omitted] The Inner Cabinet next week will continue discussion of the issue. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin probably will leave for Washington without an Israeli reply.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 10 January adds: "The Inner Cabinet decided today discussion about the Israeli reply to assurances to the Baker plan proposed by the United States will be conducted only after Defense Minister Rabin returns from his U.S. visit."]

Request for 'Greater Clarity'

TA1001184590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] A Voice of Israel correspondent reports that the forum of four decided to send a communique to Washington requesting greater clarity in Secretary Baker's earlier response to Israeli wishes for assurances.

The letter, which was drafted by Cabinet Secretary Rubinstein, Prime Minister's Office Director General Ben-Aharon, and Foreign Ministry Adviser Salay Meridor, will be conveyed to Washington by U.S. Ambassador William Brown.

Shamir Lauds U.S. Efforts To 'Bridge Gaps'

TA1101102590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today praised Secretary of State Baker's intensive efforts to advance the peace process in the region. Great patience is needed before any progress can be made in the process. We are grateful for the U.S. Administration's assistance and its commitment to help us implement the peace initiative, Yitzhaq Shamir told a group of U.S. congressmen in his office.

The prime minister said Americans are very active in trying to bridge the gaps between the sides, and we support these efforts. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman brought us the prime minister's remarks.

Shamir Seeks Egyptian, U.S. Submission to Demands

TA1001170790 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 10 Jan 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Shamir and the Gap!!"]

[Text] In his address to an international conference of Jewish journalists in Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his belief the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States will convene in Washington within the coming weeks. He called for bridging the gap between the positions of the parties, reiterating his position of not negotiating with the PLO.

The main aim of the invitation to conduct a tripartite meeting in Washington is to discuss the procedure for convening a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo. The gap mentioned by Shamir refers to the composition of the Palestinian delegation, the party authorized to announce the names of the delegation's members, and participation of Jerusalem's Arab residents in this delegation. There also are procedural matters relating to content of the meeting, should it be conducted, since Israel is demanding the meeting be confined to discussing elections in the occupied territories.

The positions of Egypt and the United States regarding the need for Jerusalem residents to participate in the Palestinian delegation differ completely from the Israeli position. Whereas the United States is trying to find a means for announcing the names of the delegation's members without official PLO involvement at the outset, Egypt says the PLO's role in the peace process is fundamental from beginning to end.

Shamir's talk about bridging the gap while simultaneously persisting in rejecting participation by the PLO, Arab residents of Jerusalem, or even two of the deportees, means that Shamir is asking the United States and Egypt to submit to what he wants. In other words, bridging the gap according to Shamir's perception means accepting what he desires.

It is no secret Israel is divided over the Palestinian role in the peace process. The government crisis triggered by Shamir's decision to dismiss Minister 'Ezer Weizman from the Cabinet because of his talks with the PLO, and Shamir's subsequent backing down from his decision and sufficing with suspending for a year and a half Weizman's membership in the Inner Cabinet reveal the Israeli position's confusion regarding PLO participation.

No sooner had the winds of the Weizman crisis subsided when Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, a member of the Likud Party, proclaimed the necessity of negotiations between Israel and the PLO. At a news conference he conducted two days ago, Lahat said: "I definitely would talk about peace with Yasir 'Arafat, as long as he is leader of the PLO and the Palestinian people." Lahat added: "This will push the peace process forward, and many in the Likud party realize there ultimately is no other alternative."

These statements prove by persisting in his positions, Shamir now faces the great majority of the world's countries, the Labor Party or a large section of it, in addition to a trend appearing inside the Likud Party. Lahat's remarks cannot be just a slip of the tongue, particularly since they were made only a few days after the Weizman crisis. A man in Lahat's position should realize the impact his statements have and their repercussions both on the local and international levels.

Commentary Says Shamir Seeks To Exhaust 'Arafat

TA1001105390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 90 p 9

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The War of Attrition"]

[Text] So what is on the Inner Cabinet's agenda this morning? James Baker's five points from October 1989, Baker's revised five points from the beginning of November 1989, Israel's response from November 1989, and a draft of the U.S. response to the Israeli answer from December 1989. Israel some time in January will deliver its reaction to the U.S. reply to its original response.

Nine months therefore have passed since the day the Israeli Government announced its initiative, and conditions still are not ripe even for a preparatory get-together to set up a preliminary meeting for organizing elections. The elections are supposed to furnish a Palestinian delegation, with which Israel only would discuss interim arrangements.

'Arafat has been forced to gather the remnants of his courage and strength. Egypt has used all its influence, and in formulating the guarantees, the United States has bent over backwards to Israel nearly to the limit, and perhaps not just nearly. After all this, Baker can phrase the most important assurance concerning Israel in this problematic manner: "It is not the intention of the United States to lead Israel into a negotiation process with the PLO," with the addition of "in the current

effort." Baker rejected the "assumptions" regarding inclusion of only Palestinian residents of the territories, limitation of the agenda to election modalities, and Israel's participation in the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Shamir has good reason not to feel overly concerned about the positions expressed in the draft brought back by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. It is true that leaking the document to the press will encumber the United States, because any compromise in Israel's favor will lead to a PLO demand for a parallel achievement. But this accords exactly with Prime Minister Shamir's tactics, which although they may have not achieved results in the political sphere, have been successful markedly beneath the surface.

According to Yitzhaq Shamir's projections, the arduous process surrounding the assurances should have exhausted Yasir 'Arafat and cleared the arena, as Yitzhaq Shamir had hoped, for moderate Palestinian notables from the territories. The intelligence services counted on reports stressing 'Arafat's difficult position within the PLO leadership.

An analysis by the Prime Minister's Bureau shows that while the Israeli media wallowed in the juicy gossip surrounding the Weizman affair, the Arabic press stressed Shamir's determined position against any attempt to talk with the PLO. The PLO's publications expose their fear of Israeli machinations and Israel's ability to secure additional concessions from the United States at the next stage. Rubinstein apparently managed to convince the Americans that Shamir cannot, and has no desire, to bypass "assumption" No 1 ("the negotiations will begin following the composition of a list of Palestinian Arabs from among the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip which will be acceptable to Israel"). If the rumors that Shamir has not rejected the compromise proposal—to permit inclusion of those deportees who still are listed in the territories' registration of inhabitants and to permit sending an invitation for the Cairo dialogue to Faysal al-Husayni's Ramallah address—are true, then he still might reject 'Arafat. If he accepts 'Arafat, then the next clash will be about who will publish the list of Palestinian candidates.

The statements made by Yitzhaq Rabin, acting leader of the Labor Party, to a group of labor doves this week were music to Shamir's ears. He would be right to assume the defense minister remains by his side in the war of attrition against 'Arafat and even has called off the threat to dissolve the government. 'Arafat will be forced to find the way out of this imbroglio. 'Arafat already has turned down his friends' advice to respond favorably to Shamir's proposal that the level of the Cairo meeting be downgraded to clerical and its content to procedural matters. This suggestion was designed to permit the inception of the dialogue between Israel and Palestinians from the territories.

If the PLO pundits are not wrong again, then 'Arafat's position precludes any further concessions from him. Shamir continues to gain time by haggling over every "assumption" with the United States, and the confrontations with the constraints ministers also contribute to the time element. Time is working against 'Arafat, whose rivals are getting stronger, and the United States, which, although it had demanded an Israeli response before the end of 1989, has not pressed for an answer.

The U.S. State Department spokeswoman's announcement on 8 January—that the tripartite foreign ministers meeting would not take place if the meeting's success was not guaranteed in advance—validates Rubinstein's assessment salvation will not come from the United States. If one accepts the presumption the process cannot budge without the PLO, then the only way to foil Shamir's tactics, which are designed to exhaust the rival party, is for 'Arafat to yield on the issue of including deportees. Another possibility, which also seems rather farfetched, is that Shim'on Peres, the formal leader of the Labor Party, will gather strength to lead Israel to inevitable negotiations with the PLO.

Rabin: Superpowers May Tell Us 'Go to Hell'

TA1001191490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the two superpowers will tell the parties to the Middle East conflict to go to hell if they feel the sides are not doing enough to bridge the gaps. Rabin was speaking tonight to the International Conference of the Jewish Media in Jerusalem. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Defense Minister Rabin says there is now a unique opportunity to move toward peace, and he hopes Israel would have the courage and the imagination to exploit this opportunity. The United States and the USSR would use their good offices to advance peace only if they felt the parties were trying to bridge the gap.

[Rabin] It looks to me that when one or the two superpowers would realize that the gap between the positions of the two sides of the conflict is still too wide, they will tell the two parties to go to hell. You want to quarrel, you want to use violence, do it until one or both of you becomes tired.

[Essing] At the same time, the United States and the USSR would not try to impose peace.

The defense minister repeated that Israel could not control all the Palestinians in the territories indefinitely.

[Rabin] And I do not believe that forever Israel can control 1.5 million Palestinians who do not want to be Israelis, and do not want to be a part of us.

[Essing] Rabin said that Israel's peace initiative provided a military and a political solution. He ruled out any negotiations with the PLO, and the defense minister

added: Had there been no Palestinian terror against other Palestinians, we would have been sitting around the negotiating table already. [end recording]

U.S. Turning From 'Cooperation' to 'Dictation'

TA1101054090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Economics Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, one of the so-called constraints ministers, was critical last night of the United States in regard to the Baker plan move.

Speaking to a conference of American rabbis in Jerusalem, Moda'i, referring to reports that the administration was seeking the help of American Jewry to accept the Baker plan, said this was turning from a kind of cooperation to a kind of dictation.

Moda'i also called on the Jews of the world and Israel to share in the effort for absorbing the new wave of immigrants. On the expected mass immigration and its political implication, he had this to say:

[Begin Moda'i recording] I do not have to tell you that one of the reasons that is brought up very often in Israel why Israel should give up Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is the demographic question. Now, with an influx of 0.5 million or hopefully 1 million Jews, there is a complete change of the demographic calculations for those who need these calculations. [end recording]

Levi: 'Red Lines' Must Be Clarified to U.S.

TA1101072890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Minister David Levi has said Israel must decide what its red lines are and make them clear to the United States. He said if the United States gets the impression we would agree to a compromise, this would cause unnecessary tension between the two countries, and the United States would blame the Likud for torpedoing the peace initiative.

Referring to the decision to convene the Likud Central Committee, David Levi said there should not be a moderate bloc and an extremist bloc. If an ideological dispute exists, changes might be required in the party's platform. He stressed it is inconceivable there should not be a party debate on important issues. He made the remarks to the Voice of Israel.

Direct Soviet Flight Lands With 50 Immigrants

TA1001140690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] An Aeroflot aircraft landed at Ben-Gurion Airport a short while ago after a direct flight from Moscow. The plane carried 50 new immigrants and 100 tourists who will visit their families in Israel. The plane will return with 50 children from the Chernobyl area who spent a 3-week vacation in Israel, mainly at kibbutzim.

Youth Who Attacked Arens Motorcade Sentenced

TA1001175790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The Gaza military court today meted an al-Shati' refugee camp youth an 8 and 1/2-year prison term after he was found guilty of hurling a Molotov cocktail at Foreign Minister Arens' motorcade about a year ago during Arens' tour of the camp. The youth was found guilty on his own admission.

Charge sheets were submitted to the Gaza military court today against four residents of the al-Mughazi refugee camp who a year ago kidnapped and murdered an Arab local suspected of collaborating with the authorities. They also were charged with pouring chloric acid on a Gazan suspected of assisting the authorities.

Palestinian Fatalities in Territories Updated

TA1001145790 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 10 Jan 90 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Thursday, 4 January, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 548 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities on Monday, 7 January is 699.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 845 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—617 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—57 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—82 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—89 fatalities from other causes.

Rise in Number of Incoming Tourists in 1989 Noted

TA1001145190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 90 p B 4

[Report by Yosi Grinstein]

[Text] Some 1,174,000 tourists visited Israel in 1989. This is 6 percent more than the number of incoming tourists in 1988, and 17 percent less than the 1987 figure. This was reported by the spokesman of the Central Bureau of Statistics. Some 22 percent of the tourists came from the United States, 11 percent came from France, 11 percent from Britain, 10 percent from the FRG, and 6 percent from Scandinavian countries.

In 1989, around 50,000 tourists arrived in Israel from Eastern Europe, which is double the 1988 figure. Of this number, about 21,000 came from the USSR (as compared to 8,800 in 1988).

'Awn Says U.S. Wants Palestinians in South

NC1001204590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Addressing a delegation of Lebanese youth living in the United States, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today criticized U.S. policy, saying it is one of barter to resolve the Middle East problem. He noted the United States wants to settle the Palestinians [in south Lebanon], it does not want to grant them their rights in the West Bank, and it wants to give Lebanon away as a substitute for the Golan.

He added: The United States has immense media organs and can deceive the people. But here we derive our strength from our rights and are willing to confront it. We will not retreat, and no one can wrest from us a signature relinquishing our right and handing over Lebanon.

Army To Receive U.S., Arab Military Assistance

NC1101081790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Army command reportedly has concluded an arms deal with the United States to purchase new military equipment and vehicles, including trucks, cars, and some armored vehicles. These vehicles are on their way to Lebanon. The U.S. Administration also has agreed to allow a group of Lebanese officers to attend military training courses. Details and arrangements will be discussed later.

The Army command soon is expected to receive military assistance from several Arab countries as a sign of support for legitimacy and the Army. This military assistance is coming to Lebanon.

Within the framework of reequipping and reorganizing the Army brigades, it has been learned the Army command will soon establish a camp to reorganize the brigades. Members of the brigades will receive intensive training. The camp will reorganize all Army brigades within the framework of national allegiance to legitimacy.

The Army command also is expected to announce soon it will launch a large-scale campaign to recruit more soldiers from various areas and communities.

Amal Sends Reinforcements to Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1001181790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Iranian envoy Mohammad 'Ali Besharati's efforts to end the Amal-Hizballah fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah have so far failed to produce positive results. Intermittent clashes involving machineguns and rockets took place today. REUTER reported that the Amal Movement has sent reinforcements to its forward lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Meanwhile, Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, has said that the Fatah forces' deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah is justified. He added: The deployment of pro-'Arafat's forces aims to stop the bloodshed of two friendly groups.

1 Palestinian Killed, 3 Wounded

NC1101072890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah is in danger because of continuing clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah and the military reinforcements both sides have sent to the area. A significant development occurred last night between Hizballah and fighters of the Fatah Movement, which has deployed forces in the area to disengage the fighters. Hizballah has rejected the Palestinian deployment.

According to security reports this morning, clashes involving machineguns and rockets are continuing on the Kafr Hitta, Kafr Milki, Jarju', and 'Ayn Qana combat lines. AFP reports from Sidon a Fatah fighter was killed and three others wounded when Hizballah fighters fired at a Fatah group transporting supplies to Fatah units stationed on Tallat Humaydah opposite Kafr Milki township, where Hizballah fighters are stationed. Another Palestinian was killed and seven others wounded on this front since the start of the Palestinian deployment on 29 December.

Fatah Official Rejects Call To Withdraw Fighters

NC1001194290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, Fatah's political official in Lebanon, today rejected Hizballah's call for withdrawal of Fatah fighters deployed to disengage Amal and Hizballah fighters.

He said: We are not an occupation force to be asked to withdraw. We are a disengagement force, and we will return to our former bases when the fighting ends and its causes are eliminated. None of the parties to the fighting has the right to ask us to change our position. In view of the absence of a local or a regional stand to halt the fighting, we had to deploy to end the fighting. We have worked to stop the shedding of Muslim blood. The Palestinian camps could have faced some sort of a siege had Fatah not decided to deploy its fighters. We will not allow a new siege of our camps.

Besharati Continues Shiite Mediation Efforts

LD1101113790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation, led by Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy foreign minister, aimed at resolving differences between the Amal Movement and the Revolutionary Movement of Hizballah of Lebanon, continue.

The Central News Unit reports last night Mr Besharati conducted separate meetings with Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, and Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, one of the figures of the Revolutionary Movement of Hizballah. In these meetings, solutions presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the clashes were discussed.

Iran-Syria 'Crisis' Over Fighting

JN1001163090 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 23

[Excerpt] Beirut—AL-WATAN, News Agencies—A prominent Shiite source has revealed that Tehran is holding intensive secret contacts with Damascus to arrange a summit meeting between the Iranian and Syrian presidents. The source added that Tehran's move in this direction came as a result of the failure of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati's mediation to end the fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah in southern Lebanon.

The source noted that Damascus foiled Besharati's mission when he tried to exclude Damascus from a role in any agreement between the two parties [Amal and Hizballah] and to conclude the agreement under Tehran's sponsorship only. The source added that Besharati, during his Beirut visit last week, reached the point of announcing an agreement he had succeeded in brokering between the two parties. However, Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, refused to sign the agreement at the last moment when he discovered that there was no Syrian representative. The source said that Minister Birri contacted the Syrian military command in Lebanon and was told that Damascus had not been informed of Besharati's agreement. In light of this, Birri communicated to Besharati his refusal to sign any agreement that Syria is not a party to.

The source added that Besharati's unilateral decision and his attempt to exclude Damascus from participation have created a crisis between Tehran and Damascus and a dispute between the two parties in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The Shiite source continued that Tehran has informed Damascus through its ambassador that the fighting between the allies of the two sides in Lebanon and the recent Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement require an urgent summit between presidents Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Al-Asad.

The Shiite source disclosed that Damascus has shown no enthusiasm for this, and consequently, Tehran's contacts have not yielded any positive result so far. The source noted that, in the absence of any new Syrian-Iranian understanding on the future of their relations in Lebanon and the region, the dispute between Amal and Hizballah will not stop at this level. [passage omitted]

Israelis Shell Syrian, Palestinian Positions

NC1001161690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli artillery shelled a number of military positions in western al-Biqa' north of the security strip this morning. AFP said that the Israeli artillery shelled Syrian and Palestinian positions in al-Biqa' valley for the fifth time in 24 hours.

Security sources said that the shelling was targeted at Syrian artillery positions and a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine base near the villages of Lusi, al-Sultan al-Ya'qub, and Kamid al-Lawz.

Two Syrian Soldiers Killed in Attack on Post

NC1001141190 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] A Syrian position in the Hotel [name indistinct] locality in Duhur al-Shuwayr yesterday was attacked. Two soldiers were killed, three Syrian tanks destroyed, and an ammunition depot blown up.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC1101095990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the coast of Beirut at approximately 1100 today.

Cabinet Reviews Situation; Decisions Adopted

NC1001193790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired a cabinet meeting today attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers.

The cabinet reviewed the political and security situation, particularly the events in the south that threaten the unity of the country and jeopardize the very core of the national existence. The cabinet called for an immediate halt to the fighting there and for action to establish the legitimate state's sovereignty using all of its means and instruments. The cabinet stressed the need for the state to regain its role and to end the fighting between the conflicting factions. The cabinet also called for eliminating the hot spots wherever they may be and for restoring the military decisionmaking in the south to the legitimate authority because this matter is linked to the homeland's destiny.

The cabinet then dealt with the financial situation: the reasons for the hike in the value of the dollar and for the mounting internal debts as a result of the seizure of the state's revenues and plunderings. It also dealt with with the security situation resulting from the partitionist

schemes and plans for the resettlement [of the Palestinians] and for weakening the confidence in the capability of a united state and consequently the confidence in the future.

The cabinet warned against collusion among the proponents of the schemes for the establishment of religious and sectarian republics and against the current attempts to frustrate the process of establishing the legitimate state's sovereignty over its territories by its own forces and to keep Lebanon an arena for conflicts. Such a collusion exists among those who are ostensibly in conflict but who in fact are in agreement on subversive schemes.

The cabinet emphasized that the establishment of the legitimate authority is the only viable way to confront the dangers. It warned against involving the army in factional conflicts and called for fortifying the army against factional pressures and deviations. The cabinet renewed its confidence in the army's discipline. The Lebanese Army is the only genuine force and it cancels out all other substitutes.

The cabinet adopted a decision to appoint the chairman of the board of directors of the Lebanese television company and the Lebanese state's representatives in the company's board. [passage omitted]

The cabinet instructed the army command to recruit new cadet officers. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also decided to appoint three new deputies to the governor of the Bank of Lebanon to replace the current deputies whose term of office expires on 15 January. It also decided to appoint a new body to control the banks to replace the current body whose term of office ends also on 15 January.

The cabinet made a decision on diplomatic appointments and transfers involving some major capitals. [passage omitted]

The cabinet decided to temporarily suspend the collection of all customs duties except those levied on cars and other vehicles and other commodities which must be registered according to the law.

The cabinet decided to give a treasury loan amounting to 1.5 billion Lebanese pounds to the national bank for industrial and tourist development. This will provide loans to the industrial and tourist sectors at a reduced rate of interest as a contribution from the state to boost these two sectors in the present difficult circumstances. [passage omitted]

Bank, TV Board Officials Named

NC1001205790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Today the cabinet decided to appoint three deputy governors to the Bank of Lebanon. They are Mahfuz Sakinah, first deputy; Ghassan 'Ayyash, second deputy; and Marwan Ghandur, third deputy.

The cabinet also appointed Muhammad Ba'asiri as chairman of the banks control board, and Khalil Qattas, Faruq Mahfuz, 'Abdallah 'Atiyah, and Maurice Sayyidah as members of the board.

The cabinet appointed the government's representatives on the board of directors of the Lebanese television: George Skaf, chairman of the board and director general; and Muhammad al-Mashnuq, Fu'ad 'Ubayd, Basim al-Sabi', Walid Shuqayr, and Nasim Khuri as members of the board.

Envoys to U.S., Europe Appointed

NC1101075190 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The cabinet yesterday adopted a number of decisions aimed at reviving various institutions. These include the appointment of a new board of directors for the Lebanon Television Company and appointments to diplomatic and financial positions.

In the information sphere, the cabinet appointed former Minister George Skaf as chairman of the board of directors of the Lebanon Television Company. In the diplomatic sphere, Ambassador Mahmud Hammud was transferred from Moscow to London; Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk was transferred from Paris to Bern; Ambassador Ahmad al-Haj was transferred from London to Rome; Ambassador Khalil Makkawi was transferred from Rome to New York; and Ambassador Johnny 'Abduh was transferred from Bern to Paris. Nasib Lahhud, who is from outside the foreign service, was appointed ambassador to Washington. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Denies Report on Envoy to U.S.

NC1101110190 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source today denied a press report the government has agreed to give Ambassador 'Abdallah Abu-Habib 1 month to settle his affairs in Washington before the embassy is handed over to his successor, Ambassador Nasim Lahhud. The source explained Abu-Habib's assignment ended when his term as ambassador from outside the foreign service was not renewed.

Khaddam Discusses Proposal With PNSF Leaders

JN1001204890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus has discussed with officials in the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] the proposal PNSF Chairman Khalid al-Fahum submitted to reunite all Palestinian factions within the PLO framework. The meeting covered developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], leader of the Fatah Uprising Movement, and the leaders of the other factions attended.

Paper Cited on Restoration of Ties With Egypt

JN1001173490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH comments on Arab solidarity and Syria's firm stand on this basic pan-Arab issue. It says: The only condition for unity is to achieve unity; and the only condition for solidarity is to achieve Arab solidarity, confronting the nation's enemies and those who lie in wait against its destiny. This is Syria's stand and its firm principled position on this basic pan-Arab issue. This is because Syria is an advocate of unity, the base of unionists, and the advocate of Arab solidarity. It also views—out of its pan-Arab conviction—the Arabs' freedom in their strength and the Arabs' strength in their unity. In fact, this is the pivot of the principles and the strategy of our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

AL-THAWRAH says: For this reason, and because, throughout history, Syria has occupied a position and played a role larger than its size, it always has been the pivot of the nation, the vanguard of its battles, the basic pillar in all its pan-Arab and decisive options, and the maker of and partner to the first Arab unity in the contemporary era.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The restoration of normal relations between Syria and Egypt is considered the sound and required introduction to regaining Arab solidarity and laying down a new basis for it, because the Syrian-Egyptian convergence is the pan-Arab axis.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: There is nothing new in this situation. Syria and Egypt always have been the focus of the nation's convergence and the pivot of any common pan-Arab action safeguarding the nation, protecting it, and confronting its enemies and those coveting it.

Israel Will See Syria in Its 'Nightmares'

JN1101082090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined "The Arabs and the International Situation", AL-BA'TH writes: The scenario set for future world developments to remove the danger of nuclear war, stop the arms race, and peacefully resolve international and regional conflicts must affect the Middle East. This requires the Arab countries, motivated by self-defense, join forces and form a solid nucleus incapable of being divided by any foreign decision that does not consider fundamental Arab requirements.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Zionist capital is a constituent of world imperialism that has grown more aggressive and vicious with the developments in some socialist countries. Zionism thus has not changed its nature or its racist, hostile goals.

AL-BA'TH explains: Putting the Arab house in order, therefore, is a question tantamount to whether the Arabs will or will not be. Solidarity and cohesion are the secret words we can use to counter perils and create required Arab clout to face all expected developments. The paper stresses the world situation and current changes should not affect the will of the Arab people. The history and geography of our homeland must be written by the Arab people, not by any other party.

Under the headline "The Lebanese Situation and the Time Factor," AL-THAWRAH says: For things to move in a normal course, for the al-Ta'if accord to be implemented, and for the legitimate institutions to play their natural role, there must be a decisive solution to the state of rebellion against the law and legitimate authorities. AL-THAWRAH explains: The motive for this is the fact the insurgents are linked to the enemy of Lebanon and the Arab nation, implementing the scheme of partition and fragmentation Israel seeks to achieve. This long has been the reality, and is what makes the foiling and liquidation of 'Awn's phenomenon a Lebanese, Arab, and even international demand.

AL-BA'TH says under the headline: "The Aggression and the Logic of Killers": It is no coincidence the enemy propaganda organs are trained on Syria, which stands behind the anti-occupation concept, as it plays a clear and distinguished regional role in confronting the Zionist scheme—a role acknowledged by everyone. This, however, does not mean cancelling the role of the nationalist forces that confront the occupiers. The Palestinian intifadah is a heroic revolutionary action, and the Lebanese national resistance is a reaction by the Lebanese

masses to the occupation of parts of southern Lebanon. The heroic attacks against enemy soldiers here and there are carried out by nationalist forces under the yoke of occupation.

AL-BA'TH adds: Because Syria rejects murder and the logic of murderers, and because it confronts aggression and the aggressors, the Zionists, in their nightmares, find Syria behind every act of resistance and confrontation. Syria definitely is against crimes, murder, oppression and killers, and it endures a great deal to stop all this in support of the Arabs and the oppressed.

Paper on East Europe Changes, 'Common Arab Home'

JN1001184890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN reviews in its editorial the changes under way in Eastern Europe and their repercussions on the Arab-Zionist conflict. The paper also comments on the end of the cold war, reunification of the two Germanys, U.S. policy, and the building of a common Arab home.

On all this, the paper says: It is true these changes have opened the door in positive ways to serve the Arab nation and enable it to achieve its objectives. It also is true, however, the Arabs automatically will not reap benefits from these developments if they fail to make required efforts.

TISHRIN adds: If the Arabs are content to remain spectators of these events, as they now do, then the Arabs will miss a golden opportunity that never may come again—a golden opportunity to bolster their presence and regain their rights.

The paper says: The Arab nation's interests dictate now more than ever that the Arabs influence the United States to change its blind support for the hostile and expansionist Israeli policy. We also should not allow Zionism to exploit changes under way in Eastern Europe and the USSR. We moreover should not be dragged into the campaign of provocation being waged to destroy the traditional ties of cooperation between these countries and Arab states.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN stresses the need to bolster Arab solidarity, strengthen inter-Arab economic and political ties, enhance the institutions of joint Arab action, and try to establish a common Arab home on firm pan-Arab bases.

The paper adds: Only then can the Arabs stand firmly in the face of the winds of change blowing in the world and influence these winds to achieve the Arab nation's objectives, regain its rights, and guarantee its future.

'Brutal' Israeli Moves Denounced by CPSU Group

JN1001170890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 10 Jan (SANA)—A CPSU delegation headed by Mr Sharayev, CPSU Central Auditing Commission member and first secretary of the Nicolayev Oblast Party Committee, today visited the liberated city of al-Qunaytirah.

Dr Rashid Shamdin, Ba'th Party al-Qunaytirah Branch assistant secretary, elaborated on the history of the city before and after the Zionist aggression, the Zionist arbitrary, terroristic practices against its people, and the deliberate destruction of the city before withdrawing from it.

Mr Sharayev wrote in the visitors' record, denouncing the brutal activities carried out by Israeli forces against the valiant city. He also wished success to the Syrian people in their struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Occidental Petroleum Officials

JN1001075290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, this evening received David Martin, president of Occidental Petroleum Corporation; (John Karens), vice president of the corporation's exploration affairs; and Peter Austin, director general of the corporation in Damascus. Nadir al-Nabulsi, assistant to the minister of oil and mineral wealth, attended.

The talks centered on oil and gas production and marketing. The participants also discussed the work of Occidental Petroleum Corporation in the country, as well as the advanced steps taken in Syria to explore, invest, and market oil and gas to reinforce the oil industry in the national economy.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Launch Operation Against Khowst

BK1101123090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 11 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels launched a new large-scale operation against the beleaguered garrison town of Khowst, in eastern Afghanistan, and captured three security posts in overnight attacks, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported Thursday.

The Soviet-backed government's planes started heavy bombing to halt the Muslim guerrillas' advance, as they were only four kilometers (2.5 miles) west of Khowst, in Paktia Province, 35 kilometers (22 miles) from the Pakistani border, AIP said. The agency named the security posts captured by the Pakistan-based resistance as Tora Wrai, Bagh and Tobial and put the losses of both sides at 17 soldiers and two mujahidin killed.

The government forces have fired five surface-to-surface Scud missiles against the mujahidin positions, it said, adding that they "missed the targets."

Another group of mujahidin started an operation Thursday to the southwest of Khowst, as heavy fighting continued till the last radio reports from the battlefield came, the agency said.

Khowst and eastern Jalalabad city are the mujahidin's main targets since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, 11 months ago. But the guerrillas have so far not succeeded in capturing any city due to lack of weaponry and coordination.

Guerrillas had also halted a convoy of supplies at Dasht Sakawa, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Kabul, AIP said. The convoy was apparently heading towards Gardeyz, the provincial capital of Paktia, and Khowst.

Rebel Group Burns Down Weapons Cache in Herat

LD0401173490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] A large weapons and ammunition cache belonging Sayyaf's extremist group located near Zorko village, Shindand District, Herat Province, was recently set on fire as a result of surface-to-surface missiles fired by a rival group. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that as a result of this fire, which burned for almost 3 hours at the depot, 10 DShK's, 7 ZK-1, 2 mortars, 2 recoilless guns, 20 surface-to-surface missiles, 50 light weapons, 100 antivehicle mines, 200 antipersonnel mines and thousands of rounds of heavy and light weapons ammunition were destroyed. One food store near the arms and ammunition cache was also completely burned down. Also, as a result of the aforementioned rocket strike, which was carried out by Mola Dost, a ring leader of a rival group, two guards at the store were killed and three others including [name indistinct], ringleader of the extremist group of the Wahhabi Sayyaf were severely wounded.

Security Personnel Seize Opium, Arrest Dealers

LD1001212490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The state security personnel of Badakhshan Province have discovered and seized 22.5 kilograms of opium in the city of Fayzabad. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reported that Muhammad Rajab and Najrabi, two citizens of Fayzabad, who were selling opium to young addicts, were also arrested. The case is under investigation.

Mujahidin Devise New Formula for Elections

BK0901133290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1312 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 9 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance has devised a new formula for electing a rival government to the Soviet-backed Kabul regime of President Najibullah, and party differences on the issue have been narrowed, well-informed resistance sources said here Tuesday [9 January].

The rebels would elect a parliament of representatives from all the country's 216 districts, which would elect a head of state. The head of state would then nominate a prime minister whose government will have to seek a vote of confidence from the parliament, the sources said. The new government, replacing the current Afghan interim government (AIG), should take over "at the latest by May," the sources said.

The AIG was formed by a selected shura or tribal council in February last year when a moderate resistance leader, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, was elected president and a fundamentalist chief, Rasul Sayyaf, was named prime minister. Its one year mandate, starting after the government partially moved inside Afghanistan a month later, expires in March.

Soon after its inception the AIG, intended to take over in Kabul after the collapse of the Najibullah government, came under attack from the various resistance factions for "inefficiency" and lack of representative character.

Iran-based Shiite Muslimn rebels had boycotted the Sunni-dominted government, and fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar pulled out because of the AIG's failure to hold promised elections.

Some groups opposed elections in view of the ongoing civil war, while others rejected the very idea as contrary to Afghan traditions.

The sources said that after overcoming major differences the election process should start with the adoption of the new formula next month, possibly after some modification.

Informed resistance sources said the country's 216 districts, or uluswalis, will also be asked to form 10-member local bodies comprising resistance field commanders, 'ulema (religious heads) and tribal chiefs. They would be chosen by the residents of each district by election or through consensus, but an election commission team would supervise the process.

The 216 local councils would form a grand assembly of 2160 representatives while each resistance party would be allowed to send 15 representatives, five of them non-party members, they said.

The roughly 3,000-strong grand assembly will vote for a head of state. It could either endorse the sitting President Mojaddedi or elect a new president.

After election of the president the grand assembly would be dissolved and the 10-member local bodies would be asked to select one representative each to a 216-member parliament which would be a permanent body, the sources said.

The new government would then seek a vote of confidence from the parliament while the nine remaining members of each council, retaining seats as local councillor, will also become members of permanent assemblies in each of the country's 30 provinces, they said.

The sources hoped the grand assembly would be ready before the end of the AIG tenure, and in any case by May, with the AIG becoming a caretaker government in the meanwhile.

Mr. Hekmatyar, who suspended his membership as AIG foreign minister, said earlier this week, "I would come back to the government as soon as my condition for elections were met." Talking to newsmen Sunday he also confirmed that the parties were close to bridging their differences on the issue. Mr. Hekmatyar, a fundamentalist, said he personally favoured a proportional representation system but he was ready to accept any other process decided by the mujahidin's election commission, "one man, one vote, party-based or partyless elections."

Election commission sources claimed that out of the 216 districts hardly 25 were left in government hands. The resistance was maintaining direct or indirect contact with the people in those districts and their representatives would also be welcomed, they added. The main purpose is to have nominees of the people and not of a group or a bunch of leaders, one source observed.

India

Bhutto Envoy Meets With Prime Minister

BK1001131990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister has firmly conveyed to Pakistan India's concern at certain developments in Jammu and Kashmir and cautioned that things can become difficult to manage if allowed to continue. During his meeting with Mr Abdus Sattar, special envoy of the Pakistani prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh indicated that India will appreciate if its concerns were noted by Islamabad. Mr Sattar, who already had extensive discussions with senior officials and the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, called on the prime minister in New Delhi today.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that both sides have agreed to maintain the high-level dialogue between the two countries. Mr V.P. Singh responded positively and favorably to Ms Benazir Bhutto's desire to normalize relations. The desire was expressed in Ms Bhutto's letter handed over to the prime minister by Mr Sattar. Mr V.P. Singh emphasized the need for a joint effort to build up an atmosphere of mutual trust and better contact.

V.P. Singh Conveys Concern

BK1001161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] India has firmly conveyed to Pakistan its concern at certain developments in Jammu and Kashmir and cautioned that things can become difficult to manage if allowed to go. The prime minister told the Pakistani special envoy, Mr Abdus Sattar, that India would appreciate it if its concerns were noted by Islamabad. Mr Sattar, who already had extensive discussions with senior officials and the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, handed over a letter from the Pakistani prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, to Mr Singh in New Delhi today.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that the letter expressed Ms Bhutto's desire to normalize relations between India and Pakistan. The prime minister responded positively and favorably to it, while emphasizing the need for joint efforts to build up an atmosphere of mutual trust and greater contact. This, he said, could generate a better appreciation of each other's perceptions.

Mr Sattar explained the political and other constraints in Pakistan for restoring the pace of normalization of relations. He emphasized the need for greater interaction, particularly more cooperation in economic fields. Both sides agreed to maintain the high level of dialogue.

Our correspondent Akshay Rout understands that the Indian side has made it clear to Mr Sattar that mere expression of good intentions will not suffice. Concrete and positive signals must come from Pakistan, particularly in the context of its role in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Abdus Sattar also called on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, Mr L.K. Advani and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee. They are understood to have voiced their concern over the developments in Jammu and Kashmir and the alleged support to terrorists from across

the border. Mr Abdus Sattar leaves for home tomorrow at the end of his 4-day visit to New Delhi.

High-Level Talks Planned

BK1001161790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The Pakistani prime minister's special emissary Mr Abdus Sattar met with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh in New Delhi today and delivered the goodwill message of Ms Benazir Bhutto. In her message, she expressed a sincere desire to maintain and promote good neighborly relations with India and said cooperation based on peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit is indispensable for the development and well-being of the people of the two countries. This is imperative for the concerted efforts of the two countries to give fresh effort and thrust to the process of normalizing relations. In her message, Benazir Bhutto also said that while realizing the implementation of earlier agreements both the countries can make step-by-step progress in establishing a conducive atmosphere toward totally normalizing their relations.

Mr Abdus Sattar told a Radio Pakistan representative in New Delhi that in response to the views of Prime Minister Bhutto the Indian prime minister also expressed similar sentiments and stressed the need for solving the issues through negotiations and a spirit of goodwill.

Mr V.P. Singh said that although the governments of the two countries do not want to implement the policies of confrontation, suspicion and mistrust, there are certain occasions wherein misconceptions and misunderstandings are created. The governments of both countries should make efforts to avoid them and for the sake of better understanding both countries should maintain contacts with each other and should continue to exchange views.

Mr Abdus Sattar described his meeting with V.P. Singh as extremely fruitful and said it was held in a cordial atmosphere. He said the Indian prime minsiter thanked Benazir Bhutto for sending the goodwill message.

A spokesman of the Indian Government said both sides agreed to continue high-level talks.

Two Persons Killed in Kashmir Clashes 10 Jan

BK1001132390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two persons, including a CRPF jawan [Central Reserve Police Force soldier], were killed in clashes between the militants and the CRPF in Chota Bazar area of Srinagar City today. Official sources told our correspondent that a group of people tried to hold a demonstration defying curfew orders. The police, while trying to disperse them, were fired upon by some militants killing the CRPF jawan. A militant was also killed when police returned the fire.

In another incident, two buildings of nationalized banks were damaged in bomb blasts in Srinagar. The curfew was relaxed in the city for 3 hours from 0700 this morning. Curfew in six other towns of the valley continues.

Arson, Blasts Reported in Jammu, Kashmir

BK1101080590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, more than 10 incidents of arson have been reported during the last night from different parts of the valley. Three offices, including a handicraft center in (Safedkadal) area, were also set ablaze. The central passport office was damaged in a blast in (Karannagar) in the early hours of today.

Curfew was relaxed for 4 hours in some sensitive areas of Srinagar and for 6 hours in the rest of the city from 0500 this morning.

All-Party Rally on Punjab Begins in Ludhiana

BK1101091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, the all-party rally has just started in Ludhiana to evolve a national consensus for solving the Punjab problem. Thousands of people have converged at the venue of the rally. The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, on arrival at the airport was given a rousing reception by, among others, the Akali Dal-Mann chief, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann; former Punjab chief minister and senior Akali Dal leader, Mr Prakash Singh Badal; Akali Dal-Mann members of Parliament; and senior civil and police officials. The prime minister is accompanied by the union ministers—Mr Devi Lal, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, Mr I.K. Gujral, Mr Gurupadaswamy, Mr George Fernandes, Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan, and other leaders of various political parties.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, addressing the rally said that Punjab is a national problem and the new government has taken a number of steps to solve it. He said those elements who are killing Hindus and Sikhs or attacking the security forces are antinational. Through their action, they are weakening those who are trying to apply the healing touch to suffering Punjab. He said the center wants to do justice to Punjab and all efforts should be made to raise a united front against those who are inimical to Punjab. He alleged that infiltrators and arms are coming from outside the country.

The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, was addressing the rally when reports last came in.

Mann Group Will Not Attend

BK0901132790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Akali Dal-Mann will not be attending the all-party rally [on Punjab] being held in Ludhiana on Thursday [11 January]. Disclosing this to newsmen in Chandigarh today, the spokesman of the party, Mr Gurteg Singh, however appreciated the efforts of the National Front government to find a solution to the Punjab problem. The spokesman said that his party is interested in finding a lasting solution to the Punjab problem and believed that the Ludhiana rally will not be able to find a solution.

The Punjab State Council of CPI [Communist Party of India] has appealed to Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, president of UAD-M [Unified Akali Dal-Mann], to join in the all-party initiative and rally at Ludhiana on Thursday for which invitations have already been sent. A party statement issued in Chandigarh said that issues of participation by the political forces, as also of AISSF [All India Sikh Students Federation] and others, should not be made points of controversy, particularly at the present juncture when important steps to fulfill the strong urges and aspirations of all Punjabis to restore peace and normalcy have already been initiated.

Agreement With Bangladesh on Industrial Projects

BK0801091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] India and Bangladesh have signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up joint sector industries. The agreement signed in Dhaka yesterday envisages expansion of bilateral trade and industrial cooperation, especially in the fields of joint venture, technology transfer, and research and exchange of trade information.

The All India Radio Dhaka correspondent reports the visit of the 15-member Indian engineering delegation has generated considerable interest among local entrepreneurs for Indian technical know-how and joint ventures.

Sri Lankan Minister Offers To Talk With LTTE

BK1001092890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province chief minister, Mr A. Varadaraja Perumal, has offered to hold unconditional talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE. He told newsmen in Madras that he had requested the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi, to arrange for such a meeting in the interest of the unity of Tamils. Earlier, Mr Perumal held detailed discussions with Mr Karunanidhi for the 2d day yesterday.

Tamil Nadu, Northeast Chiefs Discuss Tamil Issue

BK0901035290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, and the chief minister of the northeastern province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, held discussions in Madras yesterday on the island's ethnic problem.

Later, Mr Perumal told newsmen that he was satisfied over his talks with Mr Karunanidhi. He reiterated that the Peacekeeping Force should not be withdrawn from the northeastern province before completing the devolution of powers to the provincial council and making institutional arrangements for the safety of Tamils.

Scientists Develop New Superconductor

BK1101100890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Indian scientists have developed a superconductor containing thallium, copper, strontium, and lead, but without rare earths. It is different from the rare earth compound developed 3 years ago.

Ordnance Board Developing Powerful Assault Rifle

BK0801033290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The state-owned Defense Research Development Organization is indigenously developing an assault rifle more effective than the Chinese AK-47. This was disclosed to newsmen in Trichirappally yesterday by the chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board, Mr (V.M. Bonarkar). He said the civil works for the cannon factory are almost complete and the 150-crore rupee project will start functioning from June next year.

Drugs Worth 12 Crore Rupees Seized in Manipur

BK1001080590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] In Manipur, narcotic drugs valued at 12 crore rupees in the international market were seized during the last year by different enforcement agencies. Briefing newsmen in Imphal today, the deputy inspector general of police, Mr Karunamoy Singh, said that 720 drug addicts were also arrested during the year.

Iran

Va'ezi Returns From Moscow, Comments on Talks

LD1101113290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Mr Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister in charge of European and American affairs, in his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, delivered to him Foreign Minister Velayati's reply [to an earlier message

from the USSR foreign minister] in which the acceptance of any proposal or clear and specific agenda, within the framework of Security Council Resolution 598, which helps the efforts of the UN secretary general. [sentence as heard]

Talking to reporters on his return from Moscow at Mehrabad Airport he added: Mr Shevardnadze, in a message to Mr Velayati, proposed a meeting to be held in Moscow for talks between Iran and Iraq for implementation of Resolution 598 with the participation of the foreign ministers of the two countries in the presence of the Soviet Foreign minister.

He said: In these talks, other issues of mutual interest and deepening of relations in all fields as well as issues related to Afghanistan were debated and views on those issues were exchanged.

In the meeting also the preparedness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to set up closer cultural and commercial ties with Soviet Muslims was communicated to the Soviet authorities. They were also informed of Iran's preparedness to create the necessary ground for greater contacts between the peoples and freedom for the peoples on both sides of the frontier to engage in traffic.

Also in the meeting emphasis was placed on the need for understanding the conditions of the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan and their demands—which have found an opportunity to make themselves known because of the new policies of that country.

Soviet Mediation Considered

LD1101093290 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of Europe-American affairs Mahmud Vaezi said here Wednesday night [10 January] that Iran will look positively at a Soviet offer to intercede between Iran and Iraq in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Earlier on Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had offered to superintend a proposed meeting in Moscow between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq in same connection. The Iranian Foreign minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in a reply to the Soviet foreign minister that Iran would consider any Soviet proposal containing a systematic and clearly-defined formula for implementation of the UN Resolution 598 for a peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran disputes.

The reply of the Iranian foreign minister was presented to his Soviet counterpart by Vaezi during his stay in Moscow this week.

While in the Soviet capital, the Iranian Foreign Ministry official also reviewed current developments in the Soviet Azerbaijan republic and said to Soviet officials that the Islamic Republic is interested to establish close relations with Muslim Soviets in cultural and trade areas.

In related report from Tabriz, seat of East Azarbaijan Province of Iran, Muslim Soviets of Azerbaijan were quoted as having said at their sporadic meetings on the Soviet side of the riverbank Tuesday [9 January] that in view of lifting visa and travel restrictions to Iran by the Soviet Government and a Soviet-Iran agreement to arrange tours between the two countries they would travel to Iran within the agreement between the two countries rather than attempt, as they frequently did earlier this week, to cross the river to Iran against normal border regulations.

Earlier this week many Muslims from the Azerbaijan republic of the Soviet Union swam the Aras River to the Iranian side of the river bank, and reportedly swam back home after a short reunion this side of the river with friends and relatives. The Aras (Araks) River has formed a natural boundary between the East Azarbaijan Province of Iran and a Soviet republic of the same name in the wake of a Soviet invasion of Iran which eventually led to an Iran-USSR treaty in 1928 dividing the Iranian territory between Iran and the USSR.

The peoples of the Soviet republic and the East and West Azarbaijan Provinces of Iran which border the Soviet republic share same religion and culture, and speak 'Azeri', a language which has shared elements with 'Turkish' the language spoken in present-day Turkey.

'Negative' UN Reaction to Iraqi Peace Proposal

LD1001121190 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 10, IRNA—The UN Secretry General Javier Perez de Cuellar is of the opinion that paragraph 41 of his last September report to the Security Council should continue to form the basis of Iran-Iraq peace negotiations, Iran's permanent representative here Kamal Kharrazi said after a meeting with de Cuellar Tuesday [9 January].

The paragraph reiterates the need for withdrawal of forces to internationally-recognized borders and exchange of prisoners of war (POWS).

De Cuellar said that he had told Iraq's UN envoy on Tuesday that part of Baghdad's recent proposal was not principled and that the rest would depend on Iranian viewpoints, according to Kharrazi.

Further on his talks with de Cuellar, the Iranian official said he had reminded the UN chief that the Iraqi president's recent plan aimed to undermine his peace efforts and to prevent the Security Council from taking measures against the party leading the peace negotiations into a deadlock.

Kharrazi met de Cuellar to submit Iran's annual contribution of dlrs. 5 million to the International Forum.

Meanwhile, sources close to the U.N. authorities disclosed that Iraq's new proposal has faced negative reaction in the forum.

They believe that the latest proposals by Saddam Husayn are not within the framework of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

The same sources also indicate that Tuesday's meeting between de Cuellar and Iraq's UN representative had not been successful.

Last Friday [5 January], Saddam Husayn proposed that Iraqi and Iranian representatives exchange six visits in Tehran and Baghdad within a period of three months to study ways of implementing the peace Resolution 598 and de Cuellar's four-point plan. He also demanded repatriation of all disabled POWs as well as other POWs captured between 1980 (the beginning of the war) and 1982.

Most of Iraqi military POWs have been captured before 1982 when major parts of Iranian territories were under Iraqi occupation.

Kharrazi Critical of Proposal

LD1001180490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Following last night's meeting between Kharrazi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations, and Javier Perez de Cuellar, our colleague had a telephone conversation with Kharrazi and asked him about the outcome of this meeting. We draw your attention to this telephone conversation which has just been prepared for broadcast

[Begin recording] [video shows a still picture of Kharrazi, with occasional shots of the United Nations building, and has the voice of an unidentified reporter talking to him] [Reporter] Mr. Kharrazi, last night you met with Mr. De Cuellar, the UN secretary general. What issues were discussed in that meeting and what were the views of the secretary general about the recent proposal of the Iraqi regime?
[Kharrazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Last night's meeting was about the payment of the Islamic Republic's yearly contribution to the United nations. At the same time, the secretary general said the Iraqi representative met with him and submitted Saddam's proposal to him. The secretary general said that in his view the proposal put forward by Iraq is not a substantial [mahavi] proposal. It is merely a working practice. [sentence as heard]. In his view the basis for the continuation of the discussions is paragraph 41, on the basis of which priority has been given to withdrawal and the exchange of POWs and other issues which are discussed in that paragraph.

As we had previously also declared our positions, we also told him that what Saddam has proposed—which is also for propaganda purposes—is not new, and has been proposed mainly in order to reduce the pressures exerted on Iraq both by the Security Council and by world public opinion following Iraq's recent stance. Iraq is seen as the side creating obstacles in the path of implementation of the resolution and is raising issues outside the scope of the resolution. Therefore, this proposal is merely a tactic used by Iraq to remove the pressures exerted on it and prevent severity in the decision to be taken by the Security Council concerning the course of the discussions and in support of the secretary general.

Therefore, it is now quite clear that Iraq's proposal is not a good proposal and does not change the situation, and that it is another stage in Iraq's procrastination and obstruction of the secretary general's efforts to achieve implementation of the resolution. We have said that if Iraq has no evil intentions in setting out such proposals, it would be better if it would accept the proposals of the secretary general who is the executor of the resolution, and take positive steps in the implementation of the resolution.

[Reporter] Mr. Kharrazi, in view of the support of some reactionary Arab regimes for Saddam's recent proposal, which is contrary to the general spirit of Resolution 598, how do you evaluate this situation?
[Kharrazi] I should say that as Iraq's aim is to minimize the role of the secretary general in following up the implementation of the resolution and to remove international pressures which are exerted on it due to the unprincipled positions it adopted after Eliasson's visit, naturally the countries which supported Iraq in the war and which are reactionary countries, will support him because his proposal is a propaganda-political plan and requires such support.

However, what is important is world public opinion, so that it gets to know the main bases of the proposal and what the real aims of Iraq and Saddam are in setting out such plans. I think the issue is very clear and the position of Iraq has been so contrary to accepted norms and so much outside the framework of the resolution that they cannot cover them up by resorting to such methods. Therefore, the support which is given by such countries for Iraq will certainly not exert a great deal of influence upon world public opinion. [end recording]

Iraq 'Sidestepping' Resolution

LD0801160490 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—This week the Baghdad government offered another proposition by way of sidestepping the UN Security Council Resolution 598, namely that representatives from the heads of state from Iran and Iraq meet each other in Tehran and Baghdad, that Iranian and Iraqi nationals be officially allowed to visit each other's countries, that wounded prisoners of war be repatriated, and that relatives of war prisoners visit their captured relatives in Iran and Iraq.

Such schemes by the Iraqi Government are not at all new. Ever since the passing of the UN Resolution 598 the Baghdad government has repeatedly offered irrelevant proposals by way of sidestepping the UN Security Council resolution and preventing its implementation,

and its proposition last week was simply one in the series of her other schemes for evading the UN document.

The relatives of Iraqi POWs have visited their prisoners in Iran, and the meetings have been made too often to need a new proposal by the Iraqi Government.

If the Iraqi regime really had any new formula for implementing the UN Security Council resolution its representative could have offered his proposal to the UN secretary general.

The Baghdad government proposes freedom of travel to Iran and Iraq by the nationals of the two countries while it is maintaining its occupation of a long strip of the Iranian soil along the borders of the two countries. Such proposals as were issued by the Baghdad government last week may be only good enough for local consumption in Iraq, although the ruling government in Iraq counts on its effects on certain Arab capitals as well.

Obviously such crude propaganda will be far too insignificant to impress anybody, and that group of politicians and the media who have conspired against the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 would do a lot better to ignore such propaganda.

The Iraqi Government has been sidestepping the resolution and sabotaging the efforts of the United Nations in a bid to obtain what it did not obtain in her war with the Islamic republic. But again such schemes do not promise the Iraqi Government anything beyond what they have so far had for that government.

Instead of offering irrelevant proposals the Iraqi regime would be far more logical to offer an explanation in relation with her refusal to fulfill the resolution and the four-point plan of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Islamic Republic accepted the plan which was formulated by the UN secretary general and presented 10 months ago. The prisoners of war would have now been repatriated if only the Iraqi Government had accepted the secretary general's plan and the road would have been paved for implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

Commentary Critical of Initiative

LD0701210390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Iran's permanent mission at the United Nations has issued a statement rejecting the Iraqi regime's proposal and terming it a new effort on the part of that regime to weaken Resolution No 598 and repeat its previous stances in a different context.

Saddam Husayn proposed a plan for the release of disabled and injured POW's; the release of all POW's of the first 2 years of war; and the registration of remaining POW's and arranging for their families to visit them. The plan also proposes delegations from both countries conduct talks in Tehran and Baghdad under the UN auspices and tourist and travel facilities be established between the two countries. This plan, which apparently has been presented to advance talks on implementing Resolution No 598 of the Security Council, is silent on the need to withdraw to recognized international borders—considered the basis for establishing lasting peace in the region. This proposal contains certain points which raise questions about Iraq's true intentions.

Resolution No 598 should be seen as a unified whole, not in a one-sided way by highlighting a single clause, disrupting the priorities set in the resolution, and directing it toward the objectives of one of the sides in the dispute—and with explanations contradicting the rationale behind the resolution. [sentence as heard]. It is obvious if such a thing took place, the most natural reaction would be that same non-acceptance of such a proposal. Saddam Husayn's proposal—in addition to ignoring the question of withdrawal and the resolution and initiatives of the secretary general—is nothing but a ploy and demagogy.

In connection with POW's, Saddam has specified the release of the injured and disabled, those captured in the first 2 years of war, and registration of POW's. As for the release of injured POW's, the number of those released and the number of times this has occurred—even in a unilateral manner—reveals the initiative on this issue has been taken by the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

As for the release of the POW's from the first 2 years of war, it should be said these were captured mostly from the Ba'th army invasion and occupation of Iranian territory until the liberation of Khorramshahr—and the majority of POW's in Iran were captured at this time. Apart from the fact no difference exists between this category of POW's and those captured during other years of the war, the separation of this group from the rest really cannot be justified.

The registration of POW's and visits from their families forms another part of Saddam's proposal. The need for the registration of the POW's, as specified by Saddam, means there are certain POW's who have not been shown to the International Red Cross. Iraqi officials—during the last days of the war—claimed the numbers of Iraqi and Iranian POW's were the same. Basra's governor also admitted a while ago that in the last year alone, Iraq captured more than 25,000 Iranians. Yet not one of these has been registered. While nearly 50,000 captured Iraqis in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been registered by the International Red Cross, Iraq only has registered about 18,000 Iranian POW's. [passage omitted]

The place where the talks are conducted and whether they take place in Tehran, Baghdad or a neutral location—as in the past—will have no effect on the talks unless the necessary sincere intentions and goodwill exist for progress in the talks.

It seems the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the simultaneous withdrawal of the forces to recognized international borders and the release of all POW's—bearing in mind these be carried out according to the contents of the resolution and within the framework of the UN secretary general's initiatives—can, if Iraq agrees, act as the basis for speeding up the talks, implementing the resolution, and finally, getting out of the present state of neither peace nor war.

President Meets With Qatari Minister 9 Jan

LD0901152390 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday announced the Islamic Republic's willingness to have extensive cooperation with its neighbours.

The president made the remark in a meeting with Qatari Agriculture Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, and told him that cooperation between Islamic Iran and its neighbors including Qatar would reach a desirable level.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the (Iraqi) war had been imposed on Iran with a view of sowing discord between the Islamic Republic and neighbouring states, and in order to prevent Muslims in the region from closing ranks.

Calling on regional states to be on alert against the sinister designs of their enemies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted: "We have always avoided differences and are now trying to uproot corruption."

The Qatari minister stressed that his government and people attached great importance to the Muslim people of Iran and favoured closer cooperation with the Islamic Republic. Al Thani arrived here on January 6.

Agricultural Cooperation Planned

LD0901212590 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Iran and Qatar are to establish cooperation in various areas of agricultural production including horticulture and the culturing of orchard plants, it was announced today after a meeting between Iran's Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari and his Qatari counterpart Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani.

Later in the day, the Qatari minister conferred with Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on related areas.

An Iranian delegation of soil, irrigation and agriculture experts is to visit Qatar shortly as part of an initial agreement made with the Persian Gulf state.

The agriculture minister of Qatar has also extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart for visiting Doha.

In an interview minutes before his departure home, the Qatari minister expressed pleasure with his visit to the Islamic Republic, and noted 'excellent' grounds for mutual cooperation in agriculture areas.

Al Thani arrived in Tehran January 6th and on Monday [8 January], he met the Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Turkish Transportation, Communications Pact Made

NC0801093590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The 2 days of talks between Iranian and Turkish transportation and communications experts; and between our country's minister of roads and transportation and the Turkish transportation and communications minister have ended. An agreement on bilateral cooperation in the fields of road, naval, air, and train transportation as well as in postal exchanges and telecommunications, during the current Christian year, was signed last night. Our colleague Dehqanpur reports on this.

[Begin recording] [Dehqanpur] After 2 days of talks on transportation and communications cooperation between Iran and Turkey, a protocol was signed between Mr Sa'idi-Kia, our country's minister of roads and transportation, and the Turkish transportation and communications minister.

In this protocol, cooperation between the two countries in road, rail, sea, and air transportation as well as in postal exchanges for the current Christian year has been defined.

After signing this protocol, the Turkish minister of transportation and communications granted us an interview. Pointing to the significance of transportation cooperation, he said that this was a positive protocol signed between the two countries and that the economic objectives of both have been included in it. He added that the necessary steps by both countries to overcome problems in the implementation of this protocol have also been foreseen.

Commenting on the contents of the protocol, Mr Sa'idi-Kia, minister of roads and transportation, said:

[Sa'idi-Kia] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. Transportation is of great significance in relations between the two countries. Thus they agreed that a joint transportation committee be formed. The committee met this week and an agreement was reached on the decisions adopted.

We held many discussions on road, rail, and air transportation as well as on the use of Turkish ports. Some problems had emerged in these relations during the past year. But these problems were overcome, thank God, during the committee's meeting. We reached a good agreement on entry permits on which we had had problems previously. We hope that the past problems will not be repeated. Also, we reached an agreement on the use of Turkish ports for cargo that we want to take to our country's northwestern areas. One of the routes used for this purpose is through Turkey, by Turkey's northern and southern ports. We had (?difficulties) in the establishment of a railway and in passenger transit. In this protocol we have agreed that Turkey will solve these problems within the next 6 months and that passengers may start travelling by train. Also, as far as air transportation is concerned—a topic which is being discussed between the two countries—it was agreed that talks be carried out between the two countries' airlines. It was also agreed that during the next meeting the problems that we now have—that is, our requests for further traffic—be taken into consideration and problems in this field should be solved, God willing.

[Dehqanpur] The protocol also foresees cooperation in postal services and communications. Can you please comment on this?

[Sa'idi-Kia] This meeting was actually a meeting to discuss both transportation and communications. They had some problems with the telecommunications company which were solved, and possibilities for bilateral cooperation in the field of communications are to be discussed at meetings between experts. These meetings will, God willing, be held in the future and ways for joint cooperation will be found.

[Dehqanpur] In the protocol, provision was made for 9,000 transit permits for Iranian trucks. Do you think that this is enough?

[Sa'idi-Kia] Of course the 9,000 transit permits are definite. The protocol provides for the issue of 9,000 entry permits, and a mechanism has also been devised whereby, should the tonnage of cargo using Turkish ports exceed that which was originally envisaged, more entry permits will be issued. In other words, the 9,000 permits are definite, but the possibility of increasing these permits exists. We will also seek to exceed this number.

[Dehqanpur] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Majles Deputies' Appeal to Pope on Noriega Viewed

NC0501134690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Appeal to Pope a Support for Popular Struggles"]

[Text] A total of 140 Majles (Parliament) deputies have asked the Pope to reconsider Vatican's decision to hand over the former Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega, to the American invasion forces in Panama. Noriega, following the American invasion, has sought asylum in the Vatican Embassy in Panama City.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has been rebuked for bullying its way into tiny Panama from all corners of the globe. It has utterly failed in cajoling anyone to buy cheap pretexts that its Panama adventurism had been meant for anything other than the imperialist interests of the White House.

From the propaganda point of view however, the U.S. heavily invested in the breathtaking episodes that stormed Romanian in end December. [as published] Its wire agencies that feed most news media in the world stopped short of nothing to manipulate public opinion by diluting the Panamanian issue through highlighting the Romanian developments.

But one major drawback for the U.S. was the failure of its troops to secure a military victory in Panama in a three-day period as expected.

The dragging of the occupation days into weeks did greatly contribute to the exposure of the so-called champion of democracy's bullish policies and its outright disrespect for internationally accepted norms. Carried away by some sort of a megalomania the U.S. which claims to be a founding father of the United Nations did not even show respect for the body when it recently called for American forces to withdraw from Panama.

Iran, however, in the light of the very nature of its Islamic Revolution that is diametrically opposed to exploitation and imperialism, has since the very first moments of the Panamanian drama condemned the U.S. for its jungle-oriented strong-arms policy. A massive popular demonstration in the Iranian capital on December 27 underscored the public rage over the American invasion of Panama.

Against this backdrop it is certain that Sunday's appeal of the Majles deputies to the Pope not to surrender Noriega to the U.S. has been definitely made out of anti-imperialist considerations.

Yet, it might be suggested, the representatives could have expressed this intention and motive of theirs in clearer terms so that reactionary quarters could in no way take their appeal as a support for the person of Noriega.

The anti-imperialist sentiments of the Majles deputies are then certainly welcome as their appeal to the Pope has been made for the sole purpose of support for popular moves. Yet the deputies would have done a better job had they explained the intention behind their appeal more clearly words that would have left no doubt for any one at all that the appeal is meant to support the Panamanian nation in their anti-U.S. struggle and is not in any way a backing for the person of Noriega. [sentence as published]

Editorial Paper Calls For Amal-Hizballah Unity

NC0901111390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Amal-Hizballah Unity a Politico-Religious Necessity"]

[Text] Amal-Hizballah confrontations have once again found expression in a high-pitched battle with many casualties on both sides.

Last year too, almost exactly around the same time and in the same areas in southern Lebanon war broke out between the two rival Shiite factions leaving many dead and much destruction behind.

In 1989 after a couple of months following the deadly hostilities in Beirut and nearby areas the two forces reached an agreement through the mediation of Iran and Syria.

The agreement set forth a number of basic terms to end the hostilities. One of the accord's articles called for the closure of military chapters of the two factions in Beirut and its southern suburbs. Another asked the Hizballah to pull out its forces from 'Ayn Bu-Siwar and Iqlim al-Tuffah and the setting up of a body for the settlement of the outstanding issues. The body was also charged with the responsibility to monitor ceasefire violations in the areas held by the two warring parties.

Now almost a year after, the agreement that came to be known as the Damascus Agreement has been violated on numerous occasions. The violations have now once again gotten totally out of hand heightening the tensions to a point where both factions have in recent days spoken only from the barrel of their guns.

The bone of the contention is Amal's insistence on curbing the Hizballah's maneuverability in south Lebanon especially in and around Beirut. But launching military operations in these areas against the Zionist enemy is the backbone of Hizballah's anti-Israel activities. By no means Hizballah can forgo these operations.

But aside from what rationale the two parties may offer for their stands, one thing is certain. The Shiites in general are hurt by these clashes and the damage done is beyond repair each time a Shiite fighter falls not against the Zionists but in a fight with Muslim brothers. As such no one but Israel and the political Maronites in Lebanon will reap the ominous fruits of such infightings among the Shiites.

As noted by Islamic Revolution's leader Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i the Shiite forces who once drove the Americans out of Lebanon are now disgracefully killing one another. It is indeed regrettable and tragic.

However, the only solution to this fratricide seems to be the merger of these two Shiite forces. They should come to think of what a magnificent force and fighting machine they will make together once they join hands in the name of God and for the cause of freedom and struggle against the Zionist enemies.

The Shiite brothers must be aware that Maronite and Israeli elements will miss no chance to sow seeds of discord among Muslim forces and for this, they more often than not cash in on very minor incidents.

Most Amal-Hizballah clashes have been sparked off by very insignificant incidents usually occurring between irresponsible elements from the two sides.

Unity is a religious, political necessity in Lebanon.

PLO Ambassador Requests Help From Karrubi

LD0901180890 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Over 1,770 Palestinians have so far been 'matryred' and 70,000 others injured since the start of the Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine over two years ago, said Palestinian Ambassador in Tehran Salah Zawawi today.

In a meeting with Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, the Palestinian envoy said some 6,000 Palestinians were maimed and 59,000 others imprisoned in the ongoing intifadah, while the illegal Zionist regime has destroyed 16,070 Muslim houses and looted or damaged 16,400 shops to date.

Salah Zawawi called for more help on the part of the Islamic Republic to occupied Palestine and its oppressed inhabitants.

Hoj. Karrubi replied ithat Palestinian Muslims have no alternative but to struggle and resist against the illicit entity. Political activities will be fruitful if coupled with power, he advised.

"We believe what prolongs a revolution and helps the Muslims to survive is people's alertness and formation of resistance cells on which the late Imam Khomeyni placed emphasis."

The Majles speaker called for assistance to Palestinian Muslims to enable them to continue their resistance.

On global issues, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said the world is in the grip of a 'strange' situation, with the U.S. 'impudently and rudely' trampling all international regulations.

He cited the U.S. aggression against Panama and the installing of a puppet regime in that country as an obvious example of Washington's tyranny in the world.

Editorial: Israel Reportedly Holds PLO 'at Bay'

NC0901111990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Zionists Have the PLO at Bay"]

[Text] Israel's coalition cabinet is undergoing a lot of tension in the aftermath of the sacking of Ezer Weizmann, the science and research minister, on charges of having direct and indirect contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Weizmann's political grouping, the Labor Party, has meanwhile threatened the Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir to bow out of the coalition cabinet in protest to Weizmann's firing. This has come at the time when Shamir's entire efforts are pivoting on keeping the patched-up coalition cabinet together.

The whole episode reflects one thing: The political weight the extremist elements who reject any contact, direct or indirect, with the PLO still enjoy in the so-called government.

These developments, however, are interwoven into a backdrop of certain policy lines agreed by all parties in the cabinet, i.e. no concession of any sort to the PLO. By pursuing this policy the Zionists hope to make the PLO bend to still further yieldings to Israel. PLO's submissive stands however have been very fertile ground for such a policy by Israel.

Regrettably it has to be admitted that the recent years have proven this Zionist policy a successful one as the PLO has sunk further and further into the abyss of submissiveness without gaining anything. The PLO has been a good client at the losing end of the string right since it cajoled itself into striking it out with the Zionists in the arena of politics.

Arafat's last year recognition of Israel in Geneva and his recent Paris statements on bidding farewell to armed struggle have been among the most significant gains of Israel in this connection.

However, Israel's sacking of Weizmann is fraught with political implications. The Zionists are, by firing a minister, actually sending feelers to the PLO as well as the whole world that it will under no condition recognize the PLO for talks on the Palestinian issue even if it means tension at the highest echelon of the Israeli cabinet.

This development is also rife with the inuendo that to prove its point Israel might even instruct its forces in the occupied territories to employ still more suppressive and violent measures against the anti-Israeli popular moves.

What is the PLO doing amidst the present circumstances? Its leadership, as is quite tangible, is only trying to provide for its own political interests at the cost of the rising masses in the occupied lands.

As such, to curry favor with its Israeli counterparts, the PLO may be expected to further distance itself from Islamic and revolutionary stances. The PLO is held at bay while the masses have long realized what they should do in the face of Israeli bullyings.

President Chairs Meeting of Security Body

LD0601175290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] The Supreme Council of National Security held a meeting chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening. At the meeting, the proposal for the establishment of an economic committee was discussed and examined. The proposal was approved.

Chairs Cultural Council Session

LD0601171990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] In a meeting today of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by the heads of the legislative and judicial branches of government, it was decided that the members of the council will give the necessary attention to and make the required use of the eminent leader's advice and assertions in a fundamental and rapid manner in drawing up and presenting relevant projects and programs.

At the meeting, the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution also agreed to the establishment of a postgraduate research course by the Planning and Budget Organization.

Basij Commander Comments on Tasks, Program

LD0401130690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Text] Afshar, commander of the resistance Mobilization of the Oppressed [Basij] force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [RGC] declared: To establish the 20-million-strong army, and organize the Basiji forces, the exalted leader has replaced the civilian army [sepah keshvari] with the resistance Basij forces.

Afshar, explaining the future programs of the Basij forces to reporters, said: In addition to the three forces of the IRGC, the Basij and Jerusalem organizations also have been set up in these organizations. [as heard] All Basij executive affairs will be transferred to the resistance Basij forces of the IRGC.

Regarding Basij programs, he said: The axis of all programs is provision of combat units for Basij forces, as well as the task of organizing urban resistence and civil defense by the 20-million-strong Army. These will be accomplished through the mobilization of different strata in the form of students', clerical, pupils', workers', employees', tribal, and the sisters' Basijis. They must be prepared to carry out any special missions assigned to them by the exalted leader.

He added: In all specialized tasks the organizational position of the Basijis will be considered. As far as rank and organizational classification are concerned, the Basijis will enjoy the same privileges as IRGC forces.

Referring to the allocation of credit for implementing Basij programs, he said in conclusion: In the country's 5-year economic, social and cultural plan, an independent budget for the Basij has been considered.

Deputies Send Message of Support to Khamene'i

NC1001113490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Majles deputies have sent a message to the leader of the Islamic Revolution in which they emphasized their obedience to the lofty leadership and the guardian of the Muslims' cause.

An IRNA correspondent was given a copy of the message, which had at that time been signed by 123 deputies. The text of the message reads:

In the name of the Almighty.

To the blessed presence of Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the lofty leader of the Islamic Revolution.

With greetings. We thank God Almighty that after the loss of our late imam, the robe of honor was placed on the shoulders of Your Excellency, one of the best and truest followers of the path of our dear imam, so that you can be the continuer of the lofty blessing of guardian and leader.

We hope that you will always enjoy God's boundless blessings and will sail the ship of the revolution through the waves of world events to a successful end. We will always be obedient and devoted to you and benefit from the brightness surrounding you, whom our late imam described as the bright sun of the revolution.

O dear leader, since we Majles deputies, like the heroic and brave ummah, well know that the emergence of all the values of pure Islam of Muhammad, and may God's peace and prayers be upon Him, can be achieved only under the light shone by the guardian and leader. We therefore strongly believe that we should not lose this blessing at any cost and that we should safeguard this priceless gem and affirm that we will rise to repulse anyone who intends to inflict even the smallest harm on this great pillar of Islam.

We consider obedience to our dear leader as tantamount to obedience to the great Khomeyni, may his soul rest in peace, and to the immaculate imams of Islam. Also we intend to extend our unsparing support, with firm determination, to the esteemed president of the republic, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to the dear government, and the other officials of our Islamic system who defend the rights of the deprived and the oppressed of the society.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Sadduqi—Yazd;
Kamal Kheyrkhah—Lahijan;
Mohammad Reza Rahimi—Qorveh;
Musa Salimi—Mianeh;
Sadeqi-Azad—Kalibar;
'Ali Aqa Mohammadi—Hamadan;
'Ali Mohvahhedi-Savoji—Saveh;
Mohammad Reza Bahonar—Tehran;
Seyyed Ahmad Musavi—Ahvaz;
Seyyed Reza Akrami—Semnan;
Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani—Tehran;
Mohammad 'Azimi—Torqebeh;
Hoseyn Sobhani-Nya—Neyshabur;
'Ali Rahim-Yusefpur—Ardal;
Habib Borumand—Moghan;
Shahriari—Kangan and Tangestan;
Abu-Taleb Mahmudi—Golpayegan;
Mohammad Hoseyn Eftekhari—Fuman;
Seyyed Hashem Bani-Hashemi—Mashhad;
Hoseynzadeh—Dargaz; '
Ezzatollah Damadi—Sari;
Hasan Ja'fari—Orumiyeh;
Seyyed 'Abdol-Saheb Taheri—Shadegan;
Qazipur—Ardebil;
'Abdolkarim Ahmadnezhad—Sanandaj;
Mahmud Niazi—Bijar;
Yunes Mohammadi—Khorramshahr;
Dr 'Ali 'Enayat—Khorramabad;
Chitchiyan—Tabriz;
Esma'ili—Hashtrud;
Vartan Vartanian—Armenia;
Mirvaled—Malayer;
Balukian—Kashmar;
Rahimnezhad—Paveh;
[unintelligible signature]
Heydari-Moqaddam—Delfan and Alashtar;
Seyyed Mahmud Kazemi-Dinan—Amol;
Hashem Hejazifar—Khoy;
Eytollah Ja'fari—Orumiyeh;
Morteza Zarringol—Sanandaj;
Nabiollah Raji—Na'in;
Dr Aminlu—Shabestar;
Yar Mohammad 'Arab-'Ameri—Garmsar;
Tavassoli—Tabas;
Ahmad Zamaniyan—Nahavand;
Hoseyn Harati—Sabzevar;
Mostafa Marsali—Abhar;
Nader Taheri—Maragheh;
Davud Haji-Naseri—Zanjan;
Seyyed Ebrahim Mir-Ghaffari—Tabriz;
Mohammad Hoseyn Irani—Tabriz;
Seyyed Ahmad Sirjani—Sirjan;
Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Shahidi—Mahallat;
Asadi—Eslamabad-e Gharb;
Davud Towhidi—Borujen;
Hemmati—Meshkinshahr;
'Abdol-'Azim Dadgar—Chabahar;
Gholamreza Fadayi-'Araqi—Arak;
'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri—Tehran;
Fazel Hamadani—Bahar and Kabutarahang;
Parviz Seyqali—Langerud;
Saleh Ruhanizadeh—Qa'emshahr;
Karim Shafe'i—Marand;
Seyyed Khalil Movashshah—Bandar-e Anzali;
Kiya'inezhad—Taleqan and Savejbolagh;

Mohsen Mirzapur—Rudbar;
Mohammad Taqi Ranjbar—Sowma'eh Sara;
Seyyed Mehdi Tabataba'i—Mashhad;
Reza'i—Andimeshk;
Mohammad 'Ali Shar'i—Qom;
Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi—Izeh;
Morovvatollah Partow—Khodabandeh;
Hashemzadeh Harisi—Tabriz;
'Abbas 'Abbasi—Bandar-e 'Abbas;
Yusef Tabataba'i-Nezhad—Ardestan;
Mo'tamedi-Nya—Kahnuj;
Seyyed Akbar Parvaresh—Esfahan;
Seyyed Abolqasem Hoseyni—Bojnerd;
Hedayati—Fereydunshahr;
Sho'leh-Sa'di—Shiraz;
Fazayeli—Semirom;
Shahraki—Zabol;
Dr Hasan Ruhani—Tehran;
Dr Mehdi Mehdizadeh—Gonabad;
Seyyedzadeh—Bakhtaran;
Mohammad Mehdi Rahbari-Amlashi—Rudsar;
Ahmad Nateq-Nuri—Nur;
Dr 'Abbas Sheybani—Tehran;
Mohammad 'Ali Haqqi—Sarab;
Alhoseyni—Arak;
Vahid Ahmadi—Kangavar;
Mohammad Majdara—Babolsar;
Amir Mir—Zahedan;
Farzpur—Astara;
Seyyed Sajjad Hojaji—Mianeh;
Ahmad Rahbari—Razan;
Dr Sadiqi—Bonab and Molkan;
Seyyed Hasha Shoja'i—Sari;
Seyyed Mohammad Hasan Nabavi—Bushehr;
Emam-Musavi—Shushtar;
Hoseyn-'Ali Ziya'i—Miandoab;
Seyyed Mostafa Faregh—Dezful;
Hoseyn Arbabifard Ramiyan;
Danesh—Masjed Soleyman;
Asadollah Tabe'—Miandoab;
Dr Shahrzad—Esfahan;
Ahmad Nikfar—Eqlid;
Reza Zehi—Saravan;
Seyyed Farajollah Afrazideh—Bushehr;
Seyyed Fakhreddin Musavi-Nanehkaran—Ardebil;
Seyyed Motahhar Kazemi—Khalkhal;
Mohammad Sa'id Ansari—Abadan;
Seyyed Mahmud Do'a'i—Tehran;
Hoseyn-Shahrudi—Shahrud;
'Ala'—'Aliabad-e Katul;
Ferdowsipur—Mashhad;
Seyyed 'Abdollah Hojrati—Qazvin;
Mohammad Hasan 'Alavi—Gorgan;
Dr Nikruz—Jews;
Zolfaqar—Minab;
'Abbas 'Ali 'Amid-Zanjani—Tehran;
Hasanbeygi—Damghan;
Baqumian—Armenians;
Baboli—Marivan;
Arsalan Safayi—Bakhtaran; and
[5 unintellgibile signatures]

Majles-Ratified 5-Year Plan Described

LD1001102590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The Majles, in its open session yesterday ratified the bill of the first plan for economic-social and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, comprising a single Article and 55 Notes.

On the basis of the single article of this bill, the government is dutybound to carry out this plan so that its objectives may be attained; and to allocate certain sums from sources forecast in that law, toward the attainment of the objectives ratified. Also, the government is permitted to use the credits of the banking system to the following limits: during 1368 [March 1989-March 1990]: the sum of 1.21 billion rials; during 1369 [March 1990-March 1991]: the sum of 1.211 billion rials; and during 1371 [March 1991-1992 March]: the sum of 623 billion rials.

On the basis of this bill, the government is dutybound to provide the necessary facilities to reduce the commission on allocated loans toward agricultural, industrial, and housing activities in deprived districts. This is aimed at reviving and expanding deprived districts and at setting up regional cooperatives. Also, those employed in productive units in deprived districts will be granted some tax discounts and rebates on their use of the public sector's resources and services, such as electricity, water, telephone rental, and gas.

The government is dutybound to provide the necessary legal and credit facilities for people to find low-rent or affordable accommodation and to lay the ground work for building more houses as well as to take the necessary measures to carry out the foundational changes in the system of education and training. The government is also dutybound to set up—at least at three border points in the country—free trading and industrial regions. This report states that on the basis of this bill the government is allowed to take the following measures in the fields of management and labor power, organization, strategy, and methods:

1—the transfer of government departments from Tehran to other parts of the country.

2—the codification of a uniform system of employment and pay for the same jobs done in all government departments all over the country.

3—Use of advanced management technology, especially information technology.

4—to create an equilibrium between the salaries and bonuses of civil servants and the granting of aids in cash; also forbidding agricultural or cultivable land and orchards from being turned into nonagricultural enterprises or from being used for nonagricultural purposes so as to prevent a reduction in the production of agricultural products which are the subject of Note 51.

Results of New Economic Policies Reported

LD3012115989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Following the implementation of the government's new economic policies, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank announced a fall in the price index of consumer goods and services in urban areas of the country. According to the statistics and reports submitted by the Central Bank's economic deputy, the consumer price index in urban areas of the country fell by 1.6 percent in the month of Aban [23 October to 21 November] as compared with the month of Mehr [23 September to 22 October] of this year. This decline runs contrary to the trend of previous years.

Also according to the Central Bank, the figures obtained from the assessment of prices over the past 7 months of this year indicate a slowdown in the growth of prices in both the retail and wholesale commodity trade as compared with a similar period in previous years.

On the basis of this report, the consumer price index showed a growth of 22.2 percent in this period, while the wholesale price index showed a growth of 19 percent over the same period, which reveals a decline in growth as compared with a similar period in previous years. The report adds that a study of trends in the prices of some goods purchased with foreign currency—such as sugar, automobile tires, and household and other goods—shows a decline for the month of Azar [22 November to 21 December], and that this trend in prices may be attributed to the government's new economic policies.

Editorial Views Foreign Exchange Policy

NC1612152089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Competitive Rate a Positive Step"]

[Text] Last Thursday the Islamic Republic's Central Bank announced a new foreign exchange rate to pull down the unrealistic and inflationary rate of foreign currency in the country to still lower levels. The new "competitive rate" has been fixed at 800 rials per dollar as of today against the former rate of 975 rials.

The C.B. [Central Bank] has also kept expectations high by saying it will declare a new rate for what has been termed "service competitive exhange rate," on Sunday. The latter rate will benefit out-going passengers who are entitled to an allowance of 300 dollars, patients seeking treatment abroad and students not receiving grants from the government in foreign countries. As such the government is now geared to keep two competitive rates for foreign exchange. This will certainly provide it with a lot of leverage to ultimately harness the so-called open (black) market and keep it at bay subjecting the profiteers to its own exchange policies. A word of praise is deserving to the government for its campaign against inflation and profiteering.

The present state of affairs however calls for a realistic approach. President Rafsanjani's foreign exchange policy will certainly solve the problems of the country's economy. But it takes time and patience.

The government's foreign exchange policy however has three commendable features. First it is aimed at providing manufacturing units and cooperatives—the main clients of the black market rates—with the much needed exchange to boost their line of business and, consequently, the national economy. This enables the government to spread its control over the black market and spurn the unrealistic inflation of foreign exchange rates.

Second, this policy which it is hoped will be consistently pursued, will help the government to absorb cash flow that is idly making the rounds of unproductive sectors of the economy.

In fact one of the reasons for the budget deficit is that the government has been in a see-saw battle in recent years against what can be termed the dormant capital used by the private sector in non-productive lines of activity.

To reduce the volume of the idle capital will certainly have a positive impact on curbing or reducing galloping inflation.

Thirdly, this policy will make funds available to many factories which are now actually working at one third of their nominal capacity. This will certainly promote manufacture at the national level and will arrest the obvious shortages that exist in relation to many commodities.

Foreign Exchange Restrictions Eased for Industry

LD1001195190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] A total of $270 million in competitive foreign exchange [arz-e reqabati] and $900 million in export and government foreign exchange [arez saderati va dolati] were allocated during the past 4 months for imports of raw materials in order to fully utilize the capacity of industrial units.

Announcing this, Minister of Industries Ne'matzadeh told reporters: At present 23,000 productive units have either reached the experimental production stage or are about to go on stream. He added: Rather than transferring foreign exchange for imports of goods, from now on the method of buy-back will be utilized to import the technology related to production of goods and then through the proceeds of producing such goods the production expenses will be repaid.

On removing limitations on the issuance of agreement-in-principle for starting new industrial ventures, he said: Foreign exchange limitations in the case of industry have been reduced; at present they cover only 44 branches of industry. He said that an in effort to encourage cottage industries, the requirement of foreign exchange undertaking for cottage industries has been removed. Also,

some tax and excise relief has been foreseen in an effort to encourage the export of such goods.

Exports Detailed in Customs Service Report

PM0301161590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 89 p 3

[Untitled report by "Economic staff"]

[Text] During the first 7 months of the year 778,000 tonnes of non-oil goods were exported, valued at 42.47 billion rials—equivalent to $606 million. Compared to the same period last year this shows a rise of 36.5 percent in weight and 23.6 percent in value.

According to figures released by the Islamic Republic's customs organization, four items make up 66.1 percent of total exports: Hand-woven woolen carpets; pistachio nuts; with and without shells; furs; and caviar.

Hand-woven woolen carpets weighing 5,088 tonnes and valued at 13,363 million rials made up 31.5 percent of all exports. Compared to the same period last year this item shows a rise of 24.8 percent in weight and 15.3 percent in value. Pistachio nuts, with and without shells, were the second item of exports at 31,105 tonnes valued at 8,774 million rials, which made up 20.6 percent of all exports. Compared to the first 7 months of last year this showed an increase of 19.3 percent in weight and 40.4 percent in value.

According to this report, during this period 9,958 tonnes of various types of furs valued at 4,253 million rials were exported, making up 10 percent of all exports and coming third in line. Compared to the same period last year this showed an increase of 48.9 percent in weight and 56.3 percent in value.

Caviar was the fourth most important item of export. During the first 7 months of the year 145 tonnes were exported, valued at 1,708 million rials. Compared to the same period last year this shows an increase of 54.3 percent in terms of weight and 51.8 percent in value.

At the same time the customs office has announced that during the month of Mehr (23 September to 22 October 1989] 154,000 tonnes of non-oil products were exported to other countries of the world, valued at 6,861 million rials, equivalent to $98 million. Compared to the same period last year this showed an increase of 189.7 percent in weight and 79.4 percent in terms of value.

Hand-woven woolen carpets, pistachios with and without shells, and various types of skins continue to make up the bulk of our exports in such a way that they accounted for 55.1 percent of all our exports.

About 42.5 percent of exports left Bandar 'Abbas and 37 percent of our exports left from Bandar Khomeyni, while Mehrabad, South Tehran and Kerman customs were responsible for 66.7 percent of the total value of our exports.

ETTELA'AT Calls for Media Coordination

NC0401135490 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Dec 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Weaknesses and Lack of Coordination in Press News Reportage"]

[Text] Our news system is open, extensive, but thoroughly uncoordinated. It is for this reason that despite the occasions when the press and mass communications pay attention to the interests of society (whether real, imaginative, or assumed) and at times maintain a temporary silence about a particular issue for a reason, we see that the news suddenly surfaces from another source.

Whether it is from this person's speech or that person's, whether in this city or another, the news seems to leak out and inflicts immense harm on the country's news apparatus, which is solely responsible for the dissemination and publication of news. Examples of this are if a person gives a presermon speech at the Friday prayers in Tehran or in the districts or addresses a public gathering in a mosque or a bazaar or any other center and makes certain remarks concerning a news report or an event. As a result this makes the officials of mass communications wonder about their purpose, or if they should be the only ones to raise certain issues, and about the benefit or harm of this one-sided caution in raising or not raising certain issues.

The qualifications of an election candidate are rejected and later, for whatever reason, they may be accepted. First, why should not the entire matter be publicized in a comprehensive and precise manner giving the reasons in favor and against ? It is not a complicated or classified matter. Hundreds of thousands of people who wish to vote in favor of that candidate have a right to know everything that concerns the candidates or the elections.

Second, when we decide that there are certain interests at stake which should be upheld and that silence should be maintained on a particular issue, why does that particular topic crop up suddenly and why is it mentioned openly in speeches and interviews of certain persons who have reported the matter in the first place? It even appears in the advertisements and public notices on the front page of newspapers. It thus seems that everyone has a right to announce matters except news correspondents!

Some students decide to take matters in hand and forcibly enter and occupy a building in order to reside there. Later things come to a head and the matter ends. The newspapers—bearing in mind that more important issues should be covered and the real interests dictate that unity and peace should be promoted in society and scandals which would only please the enemy should not be raised—give coverage to other topics which they feel merit greater attention. However, on the same day the matter is mentioned by one of the television officials and it appears that people are only answerable to certain people. Words such as evacuation, building, occupation, confrontation, influential, illegal, misuse, accusations,

creating an atmosphere reach the ears of the television viewers and then it dawns on them what is being said after they put these words together to form a complete sentence! After all, they have been joining such words into sentences right since elementary school!

Very well. If such incidents took place once, twice or even three times, there would not be much harm in it. Need may take precedence over rules. However, how would it seem if this became the rule rather than the exception and if we were to write the second and last installments of a subject which has not been mentioned or written about yet?!

Commentary Discusses Need for Reconstruction

NC0801102990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Late last week, the official in charge of the headquarters for the reconstruction and renovation of war-stricken areas said in an interview that 300 billion rials in credits have been earmarked for the reconstruction of war-stricken cities in 1369 and 1370 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1992—FBIS]. In addition, $400 million in foreign exchange will be used in the next 2 years for the reconstruction of damaged cities.

Even though the reconstruction of residential and economic areas damaged during the war were partially begun in the first years of the war, reconstruction was tackled more seriously and took on different dimensions after the cease-fire was declared.

Generally speaking, reconstruction has topped the list of post-war priorities in all countries that have been through a war. Using ordinary means to undo the damage inflicted by war means years of effort. Therefore, various experiences show that rapid reconstruction can only be achieved by a full mobilization of popular forces, using the full potential of the state and the people, and round-the-clock efforts from the entire population. Meanwhile, focusing public opinion on reconstruction is of special importance. Because of the large dimensions of the task, the reconstruction and renovation of areas in Iran damaged during the imposed war cannot be achieved rapidly by resorting to ordinary plans and budgets and without a general reconstruction mobilization, particularly since the firm determination of reconstruction officials to solve problems and achieve rapid progress enjoys a special place.

In the 17 months since the declaration of the cease-fire, notable activities in the reconstruction of cities damaged during the war have taken place. The reconstruction of 54 of the 65 cities bombed during the imposed war has been completed and the reconstruction of the 11 remaining cities—Khorramshahr, Abadan, Bostan, Mehran, Dehloran, Marivan, Qasr-e Shirin, Gilan-e Gharb, Musiyan, Nowsud, and Sumar—is to be completed by the end of 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991]. Of course these 11 cities suffered the most attacks and the greatest damage during the war and undoubtedly it will be impossible to reconstruct these cities by the end of 1370 without solving current problems in the process of reconstruction.

During his visit to Khuzestan Province last month, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the process of reconstruction as slow and gave the reasons for this slackness as the absence of true peace, shortages of credits, the absence of general mobilization, the failure to take reconstruction seriously, and the existence of doubts among officials as far as reconstruction is concerned.

The shortage of credits is one of the most significant problems in reconstruction. Mr Rashidian, Abadan deputy in the Majles, said in an interview on the matter: We have almost 130,000 damaged commercial and residential units in Khuzestan Province and, according to calculations, about 400 billion rials is needed to repair them. However, the funds allocated to Khuzestan Province for reconstruction in the current year is one-twentieth of this total, or 20 billion rials. If this continues, it will take 20 years to reconstruct Abadan, Khorramshahr, and Susangerd.

Although the government should strive to increase the reconstruction budget, the people's financial possibilities should also be used in reconstruction in addition to state allocations in view of the existence of financial bottlenecks. This can play a major role in ensuring the necessary credits for reconstruction if it is placed in the correct channels by the provinces' auxiliary headquarters.

The president also gave the absence of activities by auxiliary headquarters as another reason for the slow pace of reconstruction. Since 1361 [1982], after the victories scored by the combatants of Islam, reconstruction began with the formation of auxiliary headquarters. In other words, people in various parts of the country expressed their readiness to help in the reconstruction of a specific area. For example, Tehran volunteered to help in Khorramshahr's reconstruction, Fars Province volunteered to help Abadan, Mazandaran Province volunteered to help Susangerd, and Karaj city volunteered to help Shush. Recently, steps were taken to activate the Tehran auxiliary headquarters and the leader of the Islamic revolution issued a decree appointing the president to head the affairs and activities of the auxiliary headquarters for the reconstruction of Khorramshahr. Furthermore, the head of the Tehran auxiliary headquarters for the reconstruction of Khorramshahr met with the president and submitted a report on the programs the headquarters will carry out.

No doubt the activation of the auxiliary headquarters and, more generally, of the country's entire population in reconstruction will be more effective if revolutionary and jihad programs are implemented to achieve general

mobilization for reconstruction. The reconstruction officials and the country's mass media and newspapers will play an important role in organizing this mobilization.

The Muslim Iranian ummah has proved that it will maintain its active presence in all scenes of the revolution. At any rate, more than 1 million war refugees are looking forward to the day when they will return to their cities, villages, and homes. The return of the refugees to their homes will naturally lead to the activation of the regional economy and the solution of numerous problems.

Returning to the war-stricken cities depends on the creation of favorable conditions.

Montazeri Criticizes Regime Policies

LD1001161690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] According to available reports, demonstrations in favor and against Ayatollah Montazeri last Saturday [6 January] took place after he made a speech at the Qom seminary in which he attacked the policies of the Khamene'i - Rafsanjani faction.

Montazeri's speech at the Qom seminary is his first public political position taken following his silence of the past several months.

Following the hightening crisis over the visit by Ceausescu to Iran, which arrayed a considerable number of the Majles members against Khamene'i placing under question his position as Velayat-e Faqih [supreme jurisconsult], political grouping in favor or against Montazeri in Qom, Esfahan, and Najafabad has also heightened.

Pakistan

'Sources' Confirm Resignation of Foreign Minister

BK1001123290 Lahore THE NATION in English 10 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[News analysis from Mushahid Hussain]

[Text] Islamabad—After more than a year following her induction into high office there are no clear signs of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto initiating an "Operation Clean-up" in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which combines an attempt to assert control over foreign policy with pruning of upper echelons, including Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Iqbal Akhund [adviser to prime minister on foreign affairs and national security]. This process of taking charge and "loadshedding" of "extra baggage" began in October 1989 with two key appointments. Riaz Khokhar was recalled from Bangladesh and appointed as Additional Secretary responsible for foreign affairs in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, while Tanyir Ahmed Khan was installed as Foreign Secretary. Both are her own choice.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Foreign Office have confirmed that both Yaqub and Akhund have resigned, although these resignations are not yet in writing but they have been verbally conveyed to the Prime Minister as an expression of their intent to quit. Both these resignations took place during the Christmas holiday season. Yaqub Khan is already hosting his fare-well parties for the Islamabad diplomatic corps in two segments, the first on January 10 and the second on January 15. Actually, since she has been Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto has functioned with four Foreign Ministers. Yaqub Khan was the formal Foreign Minister, Akhund was the would be Foreign Minister, Dr Nasir Sheikh was the would like-to-be Foreign Minister (all three occupied office space on the 3rd floor of the Foreign Ministry) and Happy Minwalla, titled as Ambassador-at-Large with Cabinet rank, was content to being a 49 per cent Foreign Minister, since he is 51 per cent Finance Minister.

One of the Foreign Ministers, Dr Nasir Sheikh lost his job in the aftermath of the no-confidence motion, while the other two neighbours on the third floor, one a Zia legatee and the other a Benazir nominee, never quite clicked as colleagues. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan had retained his job courtesy the "Two Richards"—Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage—who came to Islamabad in November 1988 after the elections to oversee Pakistan's transition from a pro-American dictatorship to a pro-American democracy. Interestingly, Richard Armitage, Reagan's trouble-shooter, had also been sent by the American President to Panama in February 1988 to pressure Noriega to step down. Both Yaqub and Akhund were technocrats, the former an Urdu-speaking General and the latter a Sindhi-speaking diplomat, who were without a political base at home and both of whom had served in the United States, Yaqub as Ambassador in Washington and Akhund as Ambassador to the UN in New York.

Yaqub's resignation, his second as Foreign Minister in as many years, came in the context of four specific developments, which clearly indicated to him that not only was he being ignored on vital issues but that he was virtually "out of the D" and hence only a peripheral player. First, Benazir Bhutto, true to her habit of visiting the Foreign Office and appointing Ambassadors whenever Yaqub was away, appointed his Director General in the Foreign Minister's office, Riffat Mehdi, as Ambassador to distant Zimbabwe, a "punishment post" by Foreign Office standards. Riffat Mehdi, a Yaqub favourite, had been promised a plum posting "somewhere in Europe" by his boss. Second, another "Yaqub man". Humayun Khan, popularly known as "Doc" in the Foreign Office, was suddenly removed as Foreign Secretary and replaced by Tanvir Ahmed Khan, a first-rate professional and like Abdus Sattar, a home-spun Foreign Secretary. He is viewed by the Yaqubites as an "outsider" since he is a lateral entrant from the academic community. Yaqub was never informed in advance

about this decision as well. Third, the decision to recall Abdus Sattar from Moscow and send him as special envoy to India was again without Yaqub's prior knowledge or concurrence, and there was "bad blood" when Sattar was removed as Foreign Secretary in a humiliating manner after Mr Junejo's dismissal while Yaqub was Foreign Minister. Finally, after the no-confidence measure, there was pressure from within the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Parliamentary Party to have a "political" Foreign Minister who should be an MNA [member of National Assembly] with his own constituency, a power base at home and who could also enjoy the trust and confidence of the Prime Minister. Neither Yaqub nor Akhund fit this bill.

How the Pakistani power structure functions is best symbolised by the manner in which Yaqub's resignation was first conveyed to the Prime Minister. Yaqub conveyed his decision to resign to the Prime Minister in the course of a long chat with Mr Asaf Ali Zardari [husband of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto] at a Christmas party hosted by American Ambassador Oakley at his Islamabad residence on December 23. He also expressed a desire to see the Prime Minister personally in this connection, but she was apparently "too busy" to have a private meeting with him.

Akhund's problem was of a different kind. His is essentially a failure to rise to the stature of the job, although he tried to give "Foreign Ministerial looks" since his induction as National Security Adviser. When Benazir Bhutto took over, Akhund was the alternate Foreign Minister and he was looking forward to being Foreign Minister after a 90 day period. Today, he is reduced to literally being a "shadow" Foreign Minister, shadowing Yaqub Khan on all occasions and at all meetings. His position can best be understood in the light of what took place during a high-level briefing for the brass at the Joint Staff Headquarters when, Yaqub Khan, at one point, politely requested Akhund to leave the room since "highly sensitive matters are to be discussed", to which the National Security Adviser meekly acquiesced. Akhund has already indicated his preference for Paris as Ambassador. It is thus not surprising that when Yaqub Khan sent the file for Dr Humayun Khan's nomination as Ambassador to Paris, Akhund kept the file closeted away in his drawer. Even the procedure of movement of Foreign Office files has been extremely cumbersome and tedious. Yaqub sends the file to Akhund who moves it to Riaz Khokhar who, in turn, sends it to Capt. Issani, the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, who finally choses to pass it on to the Prime Minister.

While the exit of Yaqub and Akhund would be a non-event as far as the substance of Pakistan's Foreign policy goes, since neither can claim any significant or original input into foreign policy in the last year, the time has come for Benazir Bhutto to really apply her mind and that of her Party on substantive foreign policy issues. Three such steps should be in order in the immediate context. First, there should be a single full-time, political, indigenously-rooted Foreign Minister who should have, at least, some convictions of his own rather than merely signing on summaries updated from the files of previous years. Second, Benazir Bhutto should stop being always scared how a particular line in foreign policy will be received by Washington. She should try to give a nationalist foreign policy, independent of a made-in-Washington worldview. Finally, she should get her foreign policy priorities clearly so that she is able to dispense with this ad hoc, moment-to-moment, reactive style of decision-making. For this, she needs to have regular interaction with the Foreign Office professionals at the level of Director-General and Additional Secretary, some of whom are among the brightest diplomats in the Third World. It may perhaps be some consolation to the Prime Minister and her government that the only people within the power structure who are seriously thinking, analysing and applying themselves to foreign policy issues are the Pakistan Army High Command.

Bhutto Meets With French Ministry Official

BK1101005890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0004 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 10 (AFP)—French official Edwige Avice met Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here Wednesday [10 January] before leaving for Paris after a three day trip aimed at paving the way for a visit by President Francois Mitterrand.

The minister delegate attached to the French Foreign Ministry had on Tuesday confirmed that Paris planned to reopen its diplomatic mission in the Afghanistan capital. She told reporters that having a charge d'affaires in Kabul would enable France to have a clearer picture of the situation in Afghanistan where a Pakistan-based resistance alliance is fighting to topple the government of President Najibullah.

Mrs. Avice was aware of criticisms here at the decision which some leaders saw as a move that could strengthen the credibility of the Najibullah regime, a Pakistan diplomat said. But she had told Ms. Bhutto on Wednesday that it was important for France to have a reliable source of information at a time when many things could happen in Afghanistan.

A member of Mrs. Avice's delegation said the decision to "reestablish our representation at the level that it was at when the embassy was closed (in February 1989) does not mean a decision to recognise the government."

Most non-socialist countries closed their embassies last February fearing chaos after the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed that month. But Turkey and Pakistan as well as India remained.

Mrs. Avice and Ms. Bhutto also discussed economic cooperation projects between the countries, international affairs including changes in Eastern Europe and the practical details of the visit here by the French head of state, a French diplomat said.

Dates for Mr. Mitterrand's visit have not been released but the local press has said he is likely to arrive in the last two weeks of February.

Mrs. Avice shed no light on a dispute involving a nuclear reprocessing plant that France had promised with Ms. Bhutto's late father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Paris backed out of the project amid American pressures in 1978 that the facility could be used to develop the atom bomb.

Pakistan, stressing that its nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes, has demanded compensation from France for not honouring the deal.

The French official also met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Cabinet members and representatives of French non-governmental organisations working in Pakistan to help victims of the Afghan conflict.

Missile Explodes in Hasan Abdal 10 Jan

BK1101090090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] A missile apparently fired from the west exploded in a field near Hasan village in Hasan Abdal area yesterday. The assistant commissioner of Attock told our representative that the missile caused a 30-feet-deep and 50-feet-wide ditch in the field. No loss of life has been reported. However, the impact of the blast broke windowpanes and caused damage to some nearby houses.

Official Concerned Over Muslim Deaths in Kashmir

BK1001093290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayoom Khan, has expressed deep concern over the killings of innocent Muslims in occupied Kashmir. In a statement in Muzaffarabad, he said that in the occupied areas outrage and atrocities have become routine. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir president stressed the need for an immediate solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Discusses No-Confidence Motion

BK1101095790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0916 GMT 11 Jan 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—A no-confidence motion jointly presented by four opposition parties was taken up for discussion in Parliament this morning.

This motion signed by the opposition leader Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Dinesh Gunawardane, Athauda Seneviratne, and V.K. Yogasangary was moved in Parliament by the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna [MEP] leader Dinesh Gunawardane. The four opposition parties in this motion state that the government has failed to discharge its main responsibility of restoring peace and discipline in the country. The motion includes certain matters such as affecting the fundamental rights and democratic rights enjoyed by the people. Seconding the no-confidence motion, the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] MP, [Member of Parliament] Richard Pathirana, said that the cost-of-living index has skyrocketted daily during the 1 year period of the present regime.

He added that corruption and waste has increased considerably and the government had failed to provide the necessary requirements of exercise books for school children.

TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] MP K. Nawaratnam told Parliament that the government had failed to restore peace and discipline in the country as well as to solve the problems of estate labour.

The minister of state for public administration, Chandra Bandara, said that this was not the time to present a no-confidence motion as the government was now trying to solve the problems of the people.

Mr Bandara pointed out that the country is facing an economic crisis due to subversive activities.

He added that the SLFP should also be blamed for this situation.

The SLFP MP, Nimal Siripala de Silva, participating in the debate said that the country has gone back to darkness during the 1 year period of the present regime.

EPRLF Leader, Others Killed in Rocket Attack

BK1101025690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0017 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 10 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil Tiger guerrillas Wednesday [10 January] killed a rival militant leader and four others by rocketing their vehicle in Sri Lanka's East, a rebel spokesman here said.

George Tambiah and four other members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) died instantly when a rocket-propelled grenade blasted their pick-up van in Trincomalee district.

The spokesman blamed the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the killings, the latest in a recent series of bloody internecine battles in the island's Tamil Northeast.

Mr. Tambiah, who was in his early thirties, was a senior leader of the left-wing EPRLF, and a member of the EPRLF-controlled Northeastern Provincial Council administration.

Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Northeast have begun returning home. But some 20,000-25,000 soldiers are still stationed in Trincomalee and Jaffna districts.

The spokesman said Indian troops had slackened patrolling in recent weeks in some areas of Trincomalee, including Nilavali.